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Adventure COMICS

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

FEB.
NO. 305

Featuring
**"CLARK KENT,
HE-MAN!"**

**\$100 CASH IF YOU CAN
KNOCK DOWN SUPERBOY!**

THAT'S *OUR* SON,
EVERYBODY! WATCH HIM
KNOCK THE STUFFING
OUT OF THAT *SUPERBOY*
DUMMY!

MA, ISN'T IT GREAT
THAT CLARK DOESN'T
HAVE TO WEAR HIS
GLASSES AND ACT
TIMID ANYMORE TO
PROTECT HIS SECRET
IDENTITY? FROM THIS
DAY ON, WE CAN *BRAVE*
ABOUT HIM!



SUPERBOY

The ADVENTURES of
SUPERMAN
WHEN HE WAS A BOY

CAN YOU BELIEVE YOUR EYES?
WHY IS CLARK KENT, WHO IS
SECRETLY SUPERBOY, NOT
WEARING HIS GLASSES? AND WHY
HAS HE SHED HIS POSE OF
"TIMIDITY" AND "MEEKNESS" TO
PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETIC SPORTS
AND BECOME A FOOTBALL
HERO? YES, FOR ONCE IN HIS LIFE
CLARK KENT PLAYS THE PART
OF A CHAMPION INSTEAD OF A
CHUMP WHEN HE BECOMES...

CLARK KENT, HE-MAN!



FOR HE'S A JOLLY
GOOD FELLOW...

THIS IS FUN! FOR ONCE EVERY-
BODY IS CHEERING ME FOR
MYSELF! AND I OWE IT ALL TO
THAT SUPERBOY-ROBOT I EQUIPPED
WITH A MASK!



JONATHAN, HOW
I'VE LIVED FOR THIS
DAY! AFTER ALL THESE
YEARS, AT LAST WE
CAN OPENLY BOAST
THAT OUR SON IS
A HERO!

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ONE MORNING, IN SMALLVILLE, AS CLARK KENT, SECRETLY SUPERBOY, GOES THROUGH A TYPICAL DAY IN SCHOOL...



OUT OF MY WAY, KENT! I'M IN A HURRY!

I'D BETTER STUMBLE OR THE KIDS WILL WONDER WHERE I SUDDENLY GOT THE STRENGTH TO RESIST A PUSH FROM JOE MOSS, THE SCHOOL BULLY!

COME ON, CLARK! DON'T LET JOE GET AWAY WITH THAT STUFF! HIT HIM BACK!

ARE YOU KIDDING? YOU'RE TALKING TO CLARK KENT, SUPERWEAKLING! HE KNOWS BETTER THAN TO TANGLE WITH ME, THE SCHOOL BOXING CHAMP!



GOSH, HOW I'D LOVE FOR ONCE TO FIGHT BACK WHEN THE BIG KIDS PICK ON ME! BUT I MUST KEEP PLAYING THE ROLE OF A MEEK, TIMID SOUL TO PROTECT MY SUPERBOY IDENTITY!

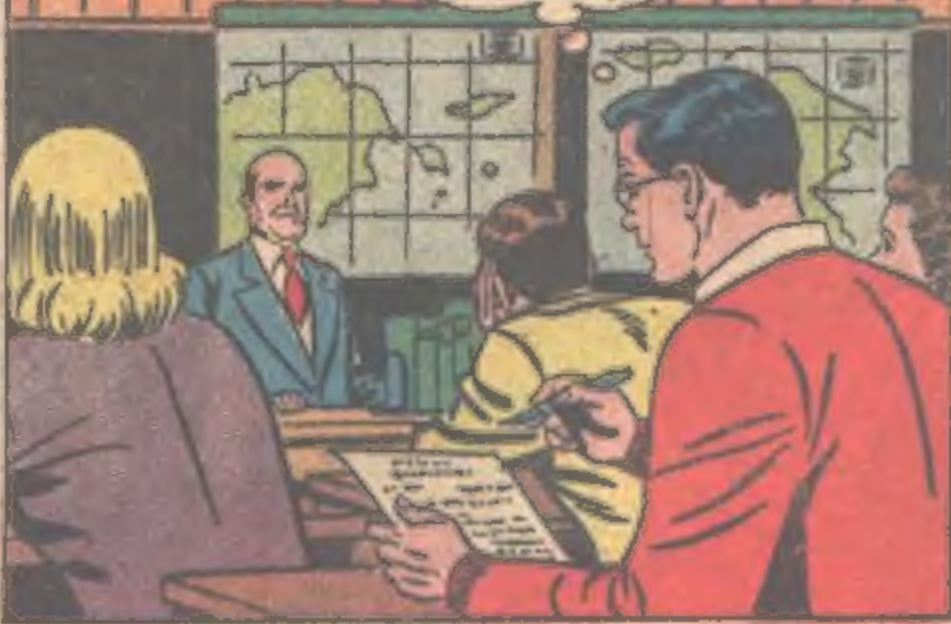
SURE, CLARK! WE UNDERSTAND! YOU HAVEN'T THE STRENGTH TO SWAT A FLY!

I...I UH...DON'T BELIEVE IN PHYSICAL VIOLENCE! IT'S NOT GENTLEMANLY!



LATER, AS CLARK TAKES A HISTORY TEST...

HERE'S ANOTHER AREA WHERE I CAN'T SHOW MY REAL ABILITY! I MUST DELIBERATELY ANSWER SOME OF THE QUESTIONS WRONG SO THAT I GET JUST AN AVERAGE GRADE!



WITH MY SUPER-MEMORY AND SUPER-SPEED I COULD SCORE 100% IN THIS TEST, IN SECONDS! BUT IF I EXCELLED IN MY STUDIES, PEOPLE MIGHT SUSPECT I'M SUPERBOY... SO I'M STUCK! I CAN NEVER BRING HOME PERFECT GRADES!

DURING THE GYM PERIOD, AS THE BOYS CHOOSE UP SIDES FOR AN INDOOR BASEBALL GAME...

HEY! WE LEFT CLARK OUT!

IT'S JUST AS WELL! CLARK ALWAYS STRIKES OUT! WE'LL LET HIM BE WATER BOY!



AND SO SHORTLY...



IT'S IRONIC! HERE I SIT ON THE SIDELINES, UNWANTED, MISSING ALL THE FUN OF PLAYING BALL... WHEN, WITH MY SUPER-POWERS, I COULD PERFORM LIKE TY COBB, BABE RUTH, AND WALTER JOHNSON COMBINED!

AND AT NIGHT, CLARK IS THE LONELIEST BOY IN SMALLVILLE...



BUD CORWIN'S THROWING A PARTY FOR OUR CLASS! LANA LANG AND PETE ROSS ARE THERE... BUT I WASN'T INVITED! I GUESS THEY CONSIDER ME A WET BLANKET AT ALL PARTIES!

AND LATER, WHEN CLARK PATROLS SMALLVILLE AS SUPERBOY...



THE PARTY'S STILL GOING STRONG! SIGH! IT'S SOME PRICE TO PAY FOR BEING SUPERBOY... TO BE COLORLESS, UNDISTINGUISHED AND UNPOPULAR SO THAT NOBODY WOULD DREAM THAT CLARK KENT AND SUPERBOY ARE THE SAME PERSON!

NEXT DAY, AT JONATHAN KENT'S GENERAL STORE...



SAY, KENT.. LET ME HAVE THOSE EXPENSIVE ICE SKATES! THEY'RE THE BEST PAIR AND THE BEST IS NOT TOO GOOD FOR MY SON! LARRY JUST WON THE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIP AT SMALLVILLE HIGH!

REALLY? HOW WONDERFUL! YOU MUST BE VERY PROUD!

I AM! BUT YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT SUCH THINGS, KENT! YOUR BOY ISN'T AN ATHLETE! HE DOESN'T STAND OUT AT ANYTHING... EXCEPT BEING A NICE KID, HELPING YOU IN THE STORE AND THAT SORT OF THING!

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, ED, SO DON'T RUB IT IN!



SOON AFTER... DID YOU HEAR ABOUT MY WILLIE, MR. KENT? HE JUST CARRIED OFF FIRST PRIZE IN THE SCHOLARSHIP EXAMS! HOW'D YOUR CLARK MAKE OUT?

JUST FAIR, MRS. SNELL! CLARK NEVER WAS A TOP STUDENT! HE JUST... ER... PLODS ALONG! I'M GRATEFUL IF HE JUST PASSES!





ADVENTURE COMICS



LATER, JUST BEFORE CLOSING TIME...

WAIT UP, KENT! I WANT A BOX OF CIGARS! MY SON JOE WAS JUST ELECTED CAPTAIN OF THE BOXING TEAM AND I'M CELEBRATING! CLARK, TAKE A PEEK OUTSIDE AND SEE WHAT I BOUGHT JOE AS A REWARD!

UH... SURE, MR. MOSS!



A CUTE CHICK LIKE LANA LANG DOESN'T WANT A DRIP LIKE YOU! YOU GO PLAY WITH YOUR FRIEND, **SUPERBOY!** HA! HA!

GREAT KID, ISN'T HE, KENT?

ER... YES!

...CHOKE...

I HAVE THE GREATEST SON IN THE WORLD AND I CAN'T EVEN SAY ONE GOOD WORD ABOUT HIM!



A **MOTORCYCLE!**

EXCUSE ME, CLARK! I DROPPED BY TO WALK HOME WITH YOU BUT JOE OFFERED ME A RIDE! SO...

...SO LANA'S GOING WITH ME!



NEXT MORNING, AS THE FATHER AND SON HUNTING CLUB SHOPS FOR SHOTGUNS...

PSST... ED! IT DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT, NOT INVITING THE KENTS TO JOIN OUR OUTING! AFTER ALL, WE'RE OLD FRIENDS!

OKAY... I'LL TALK TO JONATHAN BEFORE WE LEAVE! BUT THAT SON OF HIS WON'T BE ANY HELP! HE'S ANYTHING BUT THE OUTDOOR TYPE!



THAT WEEK-END, IN THE HILLS OUTSIDE SMALLVILLE...

WHAT DID I TELL YOU? THAT KENT KID IS SLOWING US UP, ALWAYS LAGGING BEHIND!

IT'S SO HUMILIATING, BEING THE FATHER OF A SON NOBODY RESPECTS! SIGH! SOMETIMES I WISH CLARK HAD ANOTHER IDENTITY WHERE HE COULD DO THINGS TO BRING MORE CREDIT TO HIM AND ME!



SHORTLY, AS CLARK TRAILS BEHIND...

LOOK! IT'S A **BEAR...** HEADING FOR CLARK!

GREAT KRYPTON! WHAT SHALL I DO? IT'S AGAINST MY CODE TO KILL! BUT IF THE ANIMAL ATTACKS ME AND I REMAIN UNHURT, IT'LL REVEAL THAT I'M **SUPERBOY!**



AS CLARK THINKS QUICKLY...

I'LL PRETEND TO BE SCARED AND I'LL FIRE A WILD SHOT AS I FLEE! AT THE SAME TIME, I'LL SINGE THE BEAR'S PAW WITH MY HEAT VISION TO FRIGHTEN HIM OFF SO THE OTHERS CAN'T SHOOT HIM!



SOON AFTER...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT MADE THAT BEAR TURN TAIL! BUT IF HE HADN'T, CLARK WOULD'VE BEEN A GONER! HE'S A NICE BOY, BUT I'M SURE GLAD MY SON DOESN'T PANIC IN AN EMERGENCY!

THAT DOES IT! I'VE HEARD ENOUGH CRITICISM OF CLARK AND I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!



A WEEK LATER, AT THE KENT HOUSE...

THAT'S RIGHT, MARTHA! WE'RE MOVING TO RAIL CITY WHERE PEOPLE HAVE HEARD OF **SUPERBOY** BUT NEVER SEEN HIM! I HIRED SOMEBODY TO RUN THE STORE FOR ME AND I'M LOCKING UP OUR HOUSE!



BUT WHY, JONATHAN? WHY MUST WE LEAVE TOWN?

BECAUSE FOR ONCE IN OUR LIVES I WANT CLARK TO BE PROUD OF HIMSELF AND US TO BE PROUD OF HIM! YOU KNOW WHAT THAT INVOLVES CLARK, DON'T YOU?

YES, DAD! YOU'RE SUGGESTING I TAKE ON A NEW SECRET IDENTITY, SO THAT I DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND I'M WEAK AND TIMID ANY MORE!



I'LL STILL BE **SUPERBOY** SECRETLY! BUT IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE I'LL HAVE ANOTHER PERSONALITY WHERE I CAN WIN PEOPLE'S RESPECT INSTEAD OF THEIR PITY AND CONTEMPT! I WON'T HAVE TO WEAR THESE GLASSES ANYMORE!



EXACTLY... AND WE'LL ALL BE HAPPIER!

I ONLY HOPE IT WORKS OUT!

AND SO IT IS THAT, TWO WEEKS LATER, WHEN "MARK DENTON" STARTS HIS FIRST DAY AT RAIL CITY HIGH SCHOOL...



ALL RIGHT, BOYS! LINE UP FOR THE KEYS TO YOUR GYM LOCKERS!

ONE SIDE, BUSTER! MAKE WAY FOR YOUR SUPERIOR!

HMM... AS MEEK CLARK KENT I'D LET MYSELF BE PUSHED AROUND! BUT AS "MARK DENTON," I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE ANY BULLY'S GUFF!

NEXT MOMENT...

WOW! THAT NEW KID JUST TAPPED JEFF CRAIG LIGHTLY AND JEFF REACTED AS IF HE HAD BEEN HIT WITH A SLEDGE-HAMMER!

OH HHH!

TAPP-PP!



SECONDS LATER, AS "MARK DENTON" HELPS THE DAZED YOUTH TO HIS FEET.

HEY... YOU'RE T-TERRIFIC! YOU MERELY SLAPPED MY CHEEK AND I SAW STARS! YOU MUST COME OUT FOR OUR BOXING TEAM! WITH YOU ON IT, WE'D EASILY WIN THE DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP!

THANKS! MAYBE I WILL!



THAT AFTERNOON, IN THE SCHOOL GYM...

GOSH, THIS MARK DENTON IS LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING! JEFF CAN'T LAY A GLOVE ON HIM! WHAT SPEED, WHAT FOOT-WORK... AND HIS PUNCH IS DYNAMITE!

OOOFFF!

UUUHHH!



SOON AFTER...

AND THAT'S PUTTING IT MILDLY! YOU'LL HAVE TO JOIN ALL OUR TEAMS, MARK! SKIING, BASKETBALL... AND LATER ON... BASEBALL, TRACK AND FOOTBALL!

THANKS, COACH!

DAD WAS RIGHT! IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE ADMIRIED BY PEOPLE!



AS DAYS PASS IN A "HAPPY BLUR OF GROWING ACCLAIM..."

WHAT A BASKETBALL PLAYER! MARK MOVES SO FAST, THE OPPOSING TEAM CAN'T EVEN TOUCH HIM! AND HE'S SCORED 86 POINTS ALREADY!

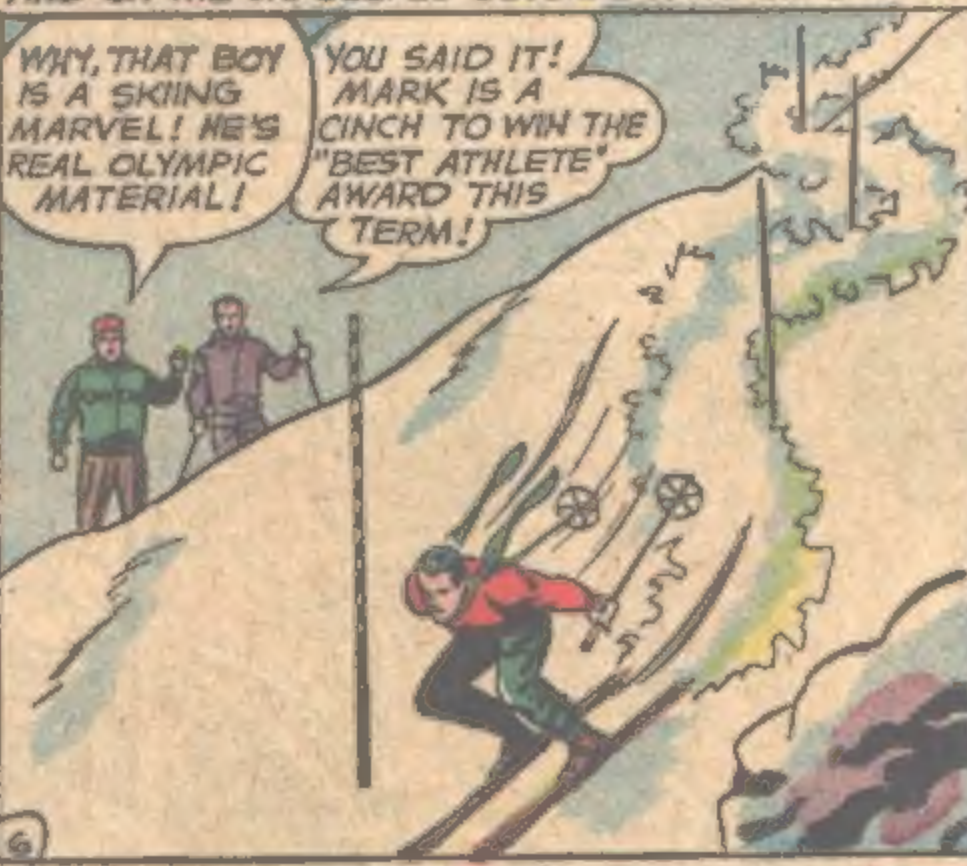
THIS IS FUN! FOR ONCE EVERYBODY IS CHEERING ME FOR MYSELF, AND NOT BECAUSE I'M SUPERBOY!



AND ON THE SKI SLOPES OUTSIDE RAIL CITY...

WHY, THAT BOY IS A SKIING MARVEL! HE'S THE REAL OLYMPIC MATERIAL!

YOU SAID IT! MARK IS A CINCINCH TO WIN THE "BEST ATHLETE" AWARD THIS TERM!



THEN, AS THE NEWS SPREADS THROUGHOUT THE TOWN...

I'VE BEEN DYING TO MEET YOU, MR. DENTON! JEFF'S BEEN RAVING ABOUT YOUR SON, MARK! HOW ABOUT YOU FOLKS COMING OVER FOR DINNER SOME NIGHT THIS WEEK?

WHY...UH...WE'D BE DELIGHTED TO, MR. CRAIG!



WHEREVER THE DENTONS GO, THEY ARE DELUGED WITH PRAISE AND INVITATIONS!

YOU MUST JOIN OUR BRIDGE CLUB, MR. DENTON!

WE'RE GIVING A PARTY FOR MY DAUGHTER, SALLY, MRS. DENTON! I'D LIKE YOUR SON, MARK, TO MEET HER!

GOSH, IT WAS NEVER LIKE THIS IN SMALLVILLE! BECAUSE OF CLARK'S EXPLOITS, WE'VE BECOME THE MOST POPULAR FAMILY IN RAIL CITY! EVERYBODY LOVES US!



AND NATURALLY, THE "DENTONS" NEW BUSINESS, A DRIVE-IN DINER, FLOURISHES...

YES, FOLKS... MY SON, MARK, WON ALL THESE TROPHIES!

MARK DENTON'S ATHLETIC AND SCHOLARSHIP TROPHIES

EEEEEEEEEE

PSST, SON! THAT'S A POLICE SIREN! YOU'D BETTER STOP WAITING ON TABLES AND INVESTIGATE!

RIGHT, DAD! I'LL MAKE A SWIFT CHANGE TO "YOU-KNOW-WHO" IN THE CELLAR!



A MOMENT LATER, IN THE DINER BASEMENT...

THE ONLY CHANGE IN COSTUME I'VE MADE IS THIS FRICTION-PROOF MASK! I NEED A MASK, BECAUSE WITHOUT MY GLASSES, FOLKS WOULD EASILY REALIZE THAT SUPERBOY AND "MARK DENTON" ARE THE SAME PERSON!



SECONDS AFTER, ON MAIN STREET...

OMIGOSH! SUPERBOY'S HERE! HE'S SPOTTED US MAKING OFF WITH THIS JEWELRY STORE LOOT!



I...I DON'T GET IT! SUPERBOY NEVER OPERATED BEFORE IN RAIL CITY! WHY'S HE HANGING AROUND HERE NOW? AND WHY'S HE PICKING UP THOSE LITTER BASKETS?

JEWELRY

THEN, WITH SUPER-SPEED, SUPERBOY COLLECTS SOME HUMAN TRASH...

GOSH, JEFF, MAYBE I'M CRAZY, BUT SUPERBOY SCORING THOSE "BASKETS" REMINDS ME OF MARK DENTON! EXCEPT FOR THE MASK, THEY'RE LOOK-ALIKES!

YOU ARE CRAZY! IF MARK WERE SUPERBOY, WOULD HE BE DUMB ENOUGH TO SHOW OFF HIS STRENGTH, SPEED AND SKILL? OF COURSE NOT! TO PROTECT HIS SECRET IDENTITY, HE'D PRETEND TO BE TIMID AND WEAK... AND THAT DESCRIPTION DOESN'T FIT MARK DENTON!

YIIII!
JEWELRY



AND SO THE "DENTONS" CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE TOWN'S ADULATION...

IT'S AN ANNUAL CUSTOM IN RAIL CITY FOR THE FATHERS' COMMITTEE TO HONOR PARENTS OF THE OUTSTANDING BOY IN TOWN! THEREFORE, IN RECOGNITION OF MARK'S PERFECT RECORD AS A SCHOLAR AND ATHLETE, WE PRESENT YOU WITH THIS CAR!

JUMPIN' JEHOSEPHAT! WHAT A GIFT!



AND AS DAD IS MADE HONORARY MAYOR AT THE PARADE THAT FOLLOWS...

PSST... CLARK... WEREN'T WE SMART TO GET RID OF THAT OLD WISHY-WASHY SECRET IDENTITY? NOW YOUR MOTHER AND I ARE THE PROUDEST PARENTS IN THE LAND AND YOU'RE THE MOST POPULAR BOY IN TOWN!

YESSIR, DAD! THINGS SURE HAVE CHANGED!



THAT NIGHT, AT THE DINER...

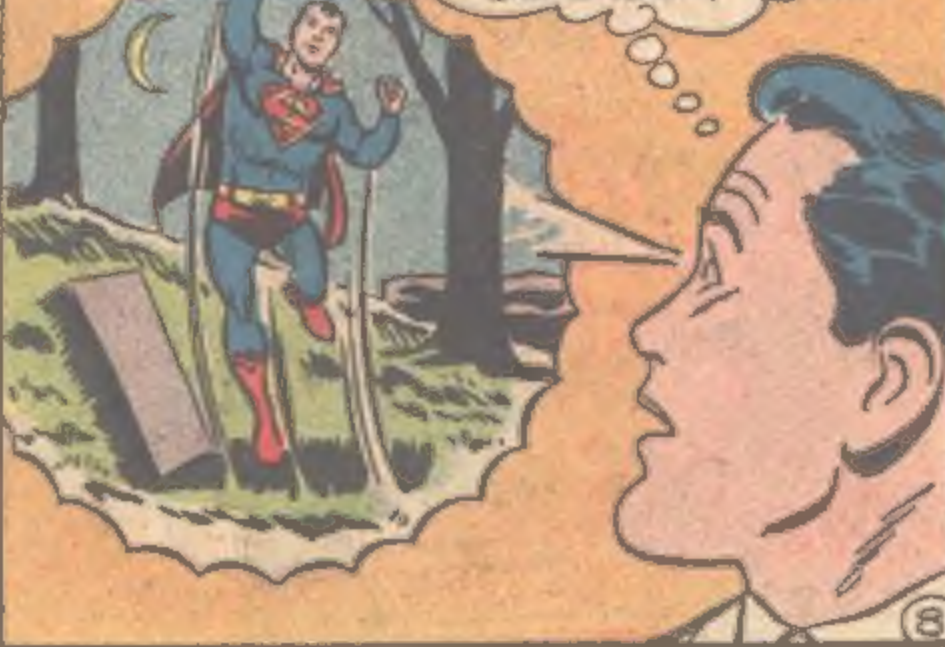
CALLING SUPERBOY! WHEREVER YOU ARE... PROCEED TO THE RAIL CITY DAM AT ONCE! ITS CONCRETE WALL HAS CRACKED OPEN!

GOLLY, HOW CAN I GET AWAY WHEN I'M WAITING ON TABLES, UNLESS... WAIT! I'VE GOT AN IDEA! I'LL USE SUPER-VENTRILOQUISM TO ACTIVATE ONE OF MY ROBOTS IN THE CELLAR OF OUR HOUSE IN SMALLVILLE!



BUT AS CLARK USES HIS POWERS, LONG DISTANCE...

OMIGOSH! I JUST REALIZED! THE ROBOT IS HEADING THIS WAY, BUT IT ISN'T WEARING A MASK... AND THE PEOPLE OF RAIL CITY ARE ACCUSTOMED TO A MASKED SUPERBOY!



AS CLARK RETREATS TO THE KITCHEN...

I MUST COSTUME THAT ROBOT PROPERLY BEFORE HE REACHES RAIL CITY! I'LL FASHION ANOTHER MASK OUT OF THIS HEAVY POT LID!



FIRST I'LL SHAPE THE LID INTO THE FORM OF A MASK...

...POKE EYE HOLES INTO IT!

POP! POP!

... THEN AIM IT AT THE ROBOT'S FACE AND FUSE IT ON WITH MY HEAT VISION!



OKAY, NOW THE ROBOT CAN GO TO WORK IN RAIL CITY!

AN INSTANT LATER...



LOOK! SUPERBOY IS USING HIS ICY SUPER-BREATH TO FREEZE THE WATER POURING THROUGH THE CRACK! THAT'LL PREVENT FURTHER DAMAGE TILL HE REPAIRS THE DAM!

NEXT MORNING, AT THE "DENTONS"...

THE PAPERS ARE FULL OF SUPERBOY'S FEAT, THOUGH ONLY WE KNOW A ROBOT DID THE JOB! BUT CAN YOU KEEP SUBSTITUTING THE ROBOT FOR EVERY EMERGENCY?

I'VE BEEN THINKING THE SAME THING, CLARK! IT'S DIFFICULT SWITCHING TO SUPERBOY WHEN YOU'RE CONSTANTLY MOBBED BY ADMIRERS!



LOOK, FOLKS, WE'RE HAVING THE TIME OF OUR LIVES BEING THE "DENTON'S"! SO IT'S WORTH THE EXTRA PROBLEMS I MAY FACE IN MY NEW IDENTITY! BESIDES, WITH THE ROBOT IN OUR CLOSET, ANY ONE OF US CAN SEND IT INTO ACTION IF I'M TIED UP!

OKAY, SON! I GUESS I'M JUST A WORRY-WART...

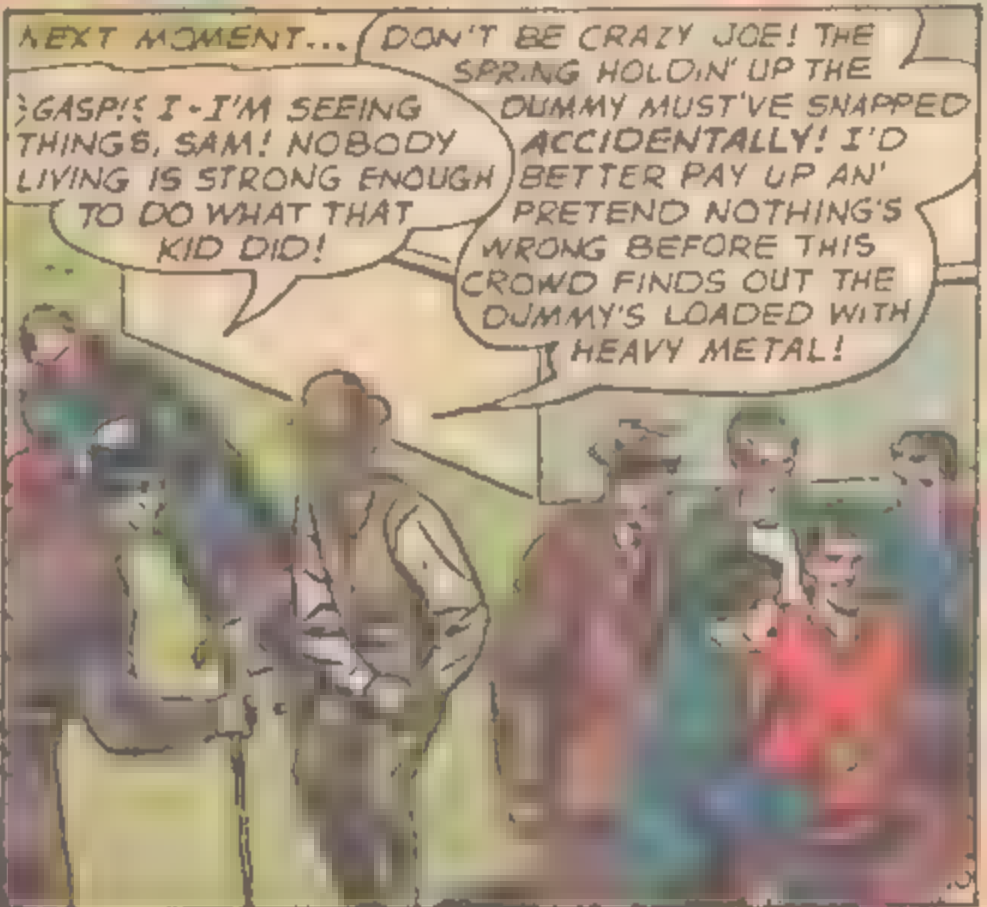
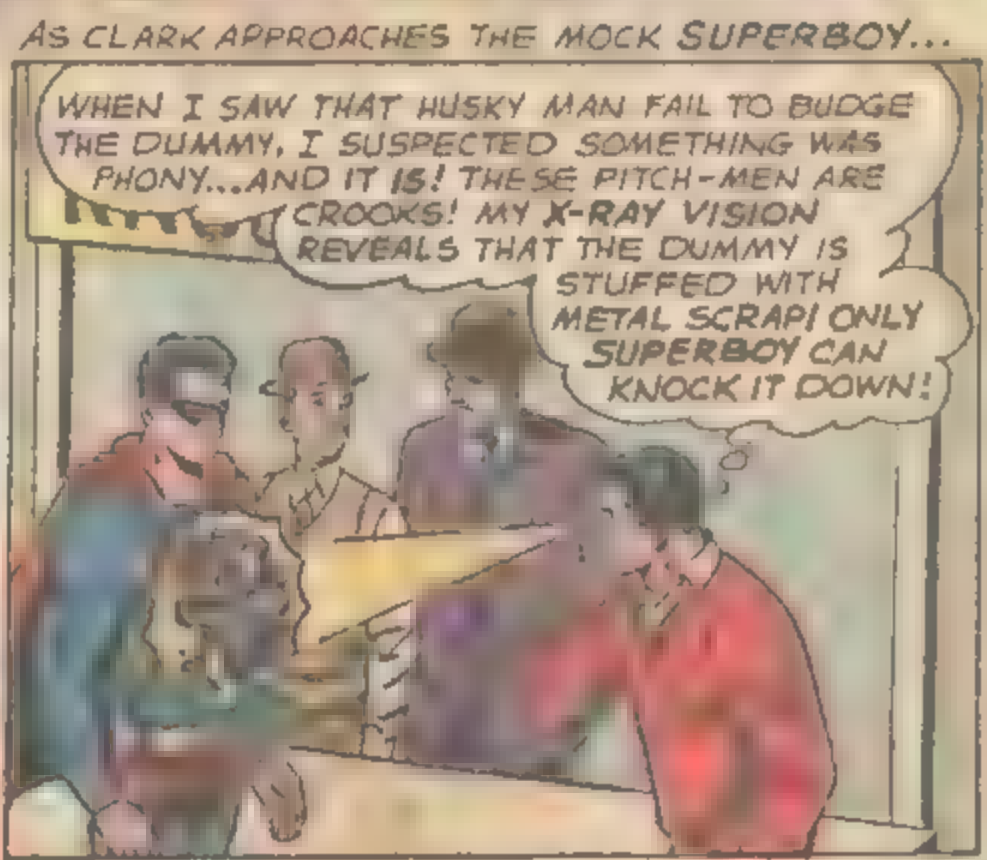
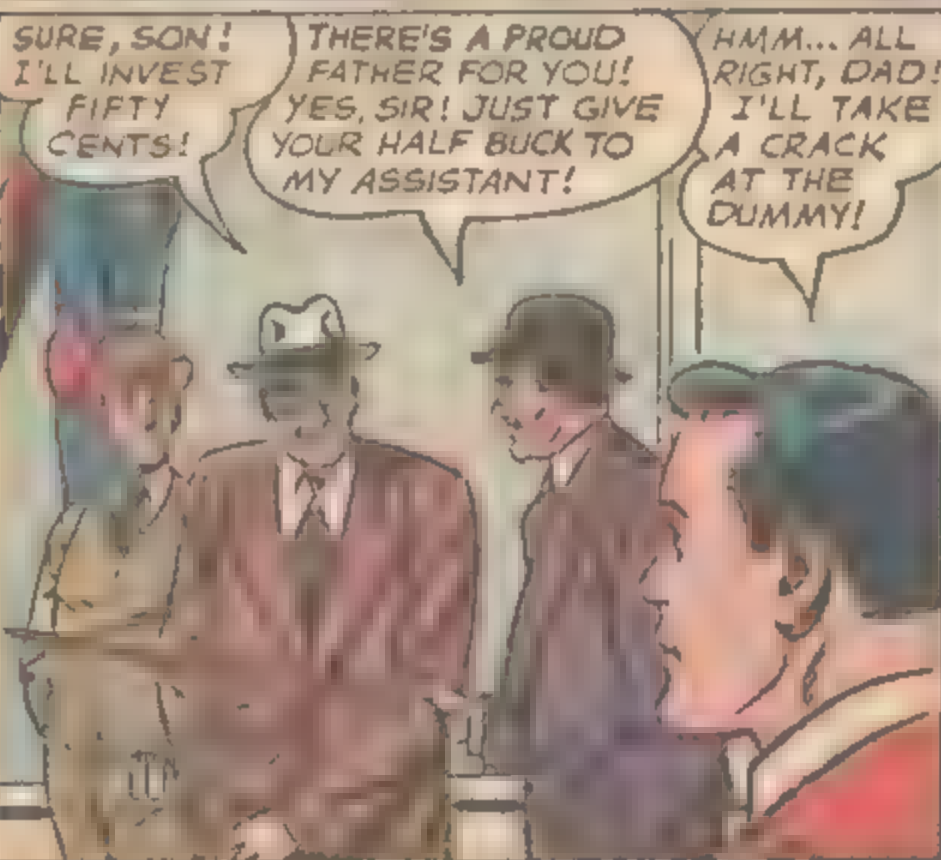
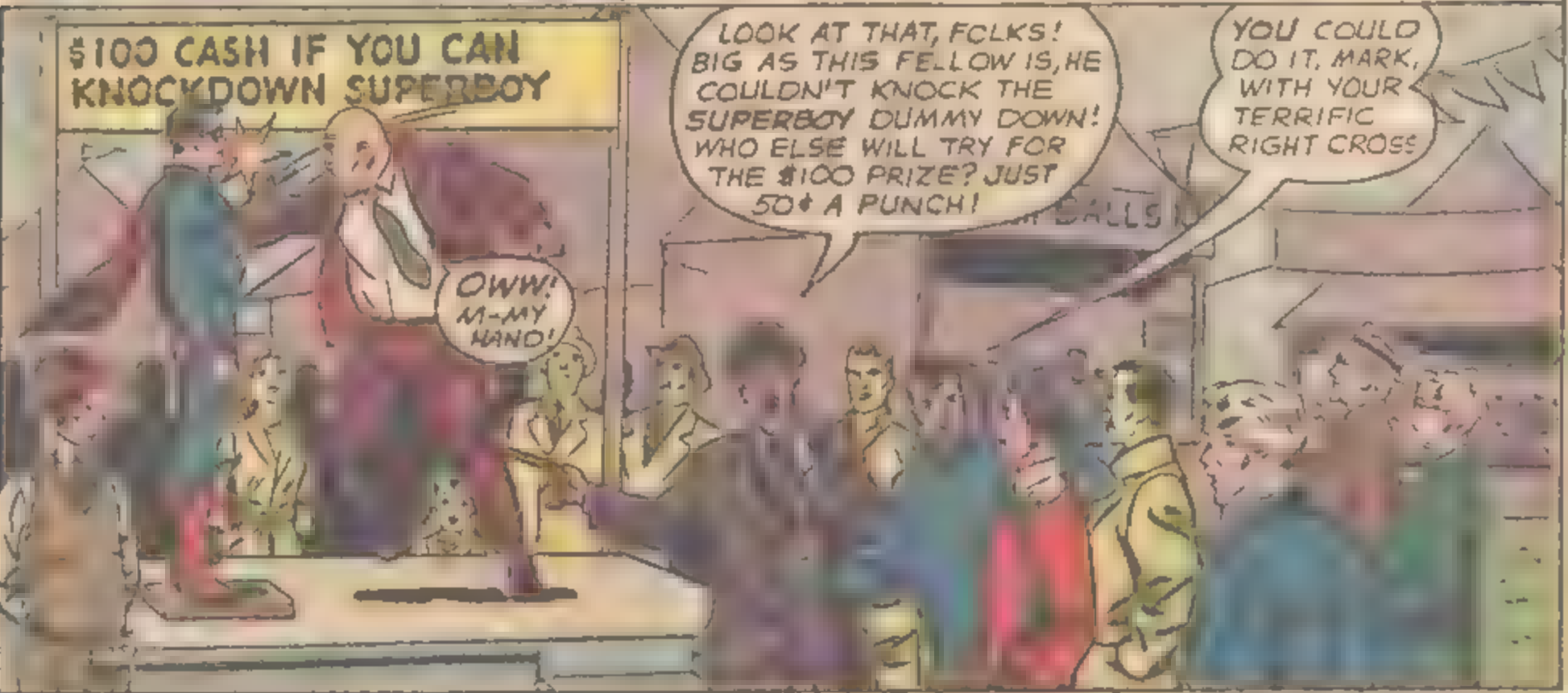




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THAT AFTERNOON, AS CLARK, HIS PARENTS, AND SOME NEW FRIENDS GO TO A NEARBY CARNIVAL...





SHORTLY...

GOSH, CLARK... I FEEL BADLY ABOUT TAKING THIS MONEY! THOSE FELLOWS REALLY HADN'T A CHANCE! AFTER ALL, YOU'RE SUPERBOY!

DON'T WORRY, DAD! YOU'RE ONLY GETTING BACK YOUR OWN MONEY!



WHEN YOU GAVE THE BARKER'S ACCOMPLICE THE 50¢, I NOTICED WITH MY X-RAY VISION THAT HE WAS PICKING YOUR WALLET! IF I HAD EXPOSED HIM, I'D REVEAL I HAD SUPER-VISION! SO I CHOSE THIS METHOD OF REGAINING YOUR CASH!

GASP! YOU'RE RIGHT! MY WALLET IS MISSING!



THEN... C'MON, MARK! STICK YOUR HEAD IN THIS SUPERBOY CUT-OUT AND GET YOUR PICTURE TAKEN! YOU'RE THE CLOSEST THING TO SUPERBOY WE'VE GOT!

WELL...UH...OKAY!

I'LL FOG THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S FILM, IN CASE THE PICTURE LEAVES RAIL CITY AND SOMEBODY IN SMALLVILLE NOTES THE RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN ME AND THE UNMASKED SUPERBOY!



X-RAYS HAVE THE POWER TO DEFOIL FILM NEGATIVES - EDITOR.

BUT SUDDENLY, AS CLARK POSES...

HEY, LOOK! ONE OF THE PLANES IS ON FIRE! IT'LL CRASH FOR SURE UNLESS SUPERBOY SAVES IT!

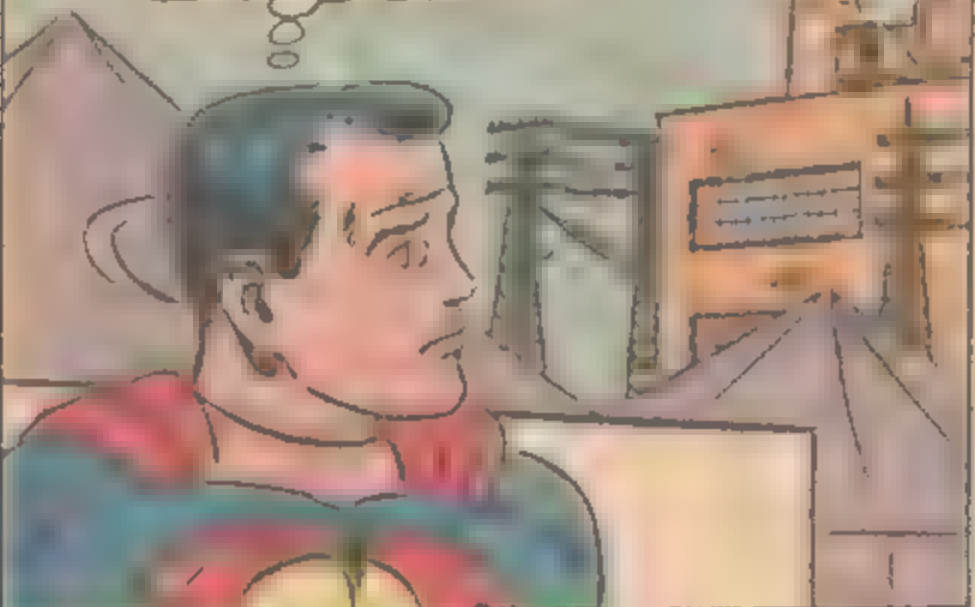
GROAN! WHAT A TIME FOR AN EMERGENCY TO ARISE! HERE I AM, IN FULL VIEW OF A CROWD WITHOUT A CHANCE IN THE WORLD TO SLIP AWAY AND SWITCH TO SUPERBOY!



AND I CAN'T ACTIVATE THE SUPERBOY ROBOT, EITHER! THAT NEARBY ELECTRICAL PLANT WILL CAUSE ITS MECHANISM TO MALFUNCTION! GROAN! DAD WAS RIGHT! THIS IS WHAT COMES OF BEING TOO POPULAR! I CAN'T OPERATE EFFICIENTLY AS SUPERBOY!

WHERE'S SUPERBOY? WHY DOESN'T HE COME TO THE RESCUE? THE FLAMES WILL SOON REACH THE PLANE'S FUEL TANK!

DAD AND MOM ARE LOOKING AT ME, AGHAST! THEY KNOW THE TRAP I'M IN! AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE I GOT TIRED OF POSING AS "MEEK, TIMID" CLARK KENT!

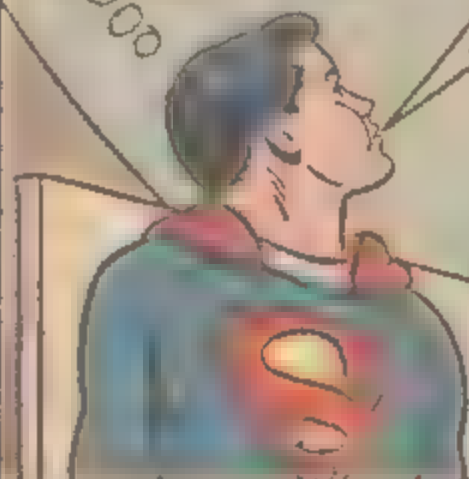




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BUT THERE IS SOMETHING I CAN DO WHILE PEOPLE ARE WATCHING THE PLANE! I'LL USE MY SUPER-BREATH TO CREATE A VACUUM AROUND THE PLANE THAT'LL PUT OUT THE FLAMES!



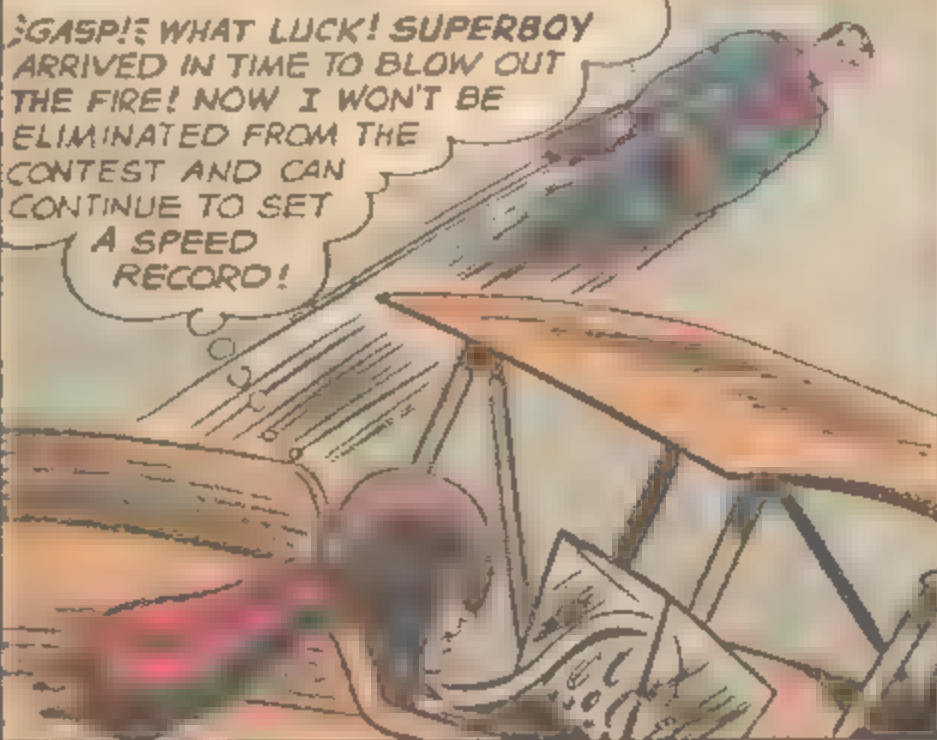
THEN, IN THE SAME SPLIT-SECOND, AS CLARK MOVES WITH BLINDING SPEED AND...



BUT I WANT IT TO LOOK AS IF SUPERBOY DID THE JOB SO I'LL TOSS THE DUMMY SKYWARD! AFTER IT ZIPS PAST THE PLANE, THE DUMMY WILL BECOME INCINERATED BY SPEED-FRICTION!

THEN, WHILE CLARK STREAKS BACK TO THE SUPERBOY PASTEBOARD FIGURE...

GASP! WHAT LUCK! SUPERBOY ARRIVED IN TIME TO BLOW OUT THE FIRE! NOW I WON'T BE ELIMINATED FROM THE CONTEST AND CAN CONTINUE TO SET A SPEED RECORD!



SHORTLY...

HEY! THAT'S FUNNY! THE DUMMY! DISAPPEARED! SOMEBODY MUST'VE SWIPED IT!

DAD'S WINKING AT ME! HE'S GUESSED WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DUMMY AND HOW I MADE SUPERBOY SUDDENLY APPEAR OUT OF NOWHERE! BUT I ALMOST FAILED TO GET OUT OF THIS JAM! ONCE AGAIN, BY BEING THE "BOY HERO OF RAIL CITY", I ALMOST MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR SUPERBOY TO GO INTO ACTION!



THAT EVENING, AS CLARK ATTENDS A PARTY...

WE INTERRUPT THE DANCE MUSIC TO WARN ALL RESIDENTS OF RAIL CITY THAT IN A CIRCUS TRAIN ACCIDENT A GORILLA HAS BROKEN LOOSE...



GREAT KRYPTON! ANOTHER EMERGENCY, AND HERE I AM DANCING! HOW CAN I SNEAK AWAY IN THE MIST OF ALL THESE PEOPLE? WAIT!... I'LL PHONE DAD TO ACTIVATE THE ROBOT!

BUT AS CLARK CALLS HOME...

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DO WHAT YOU ASK, CLARK! DAD IS PLAYING CARDS WITH HIS FRIENDS IN THE DINING ROOM! THAT'S RIGHT, IN THE VERY SAME ROOM AS...



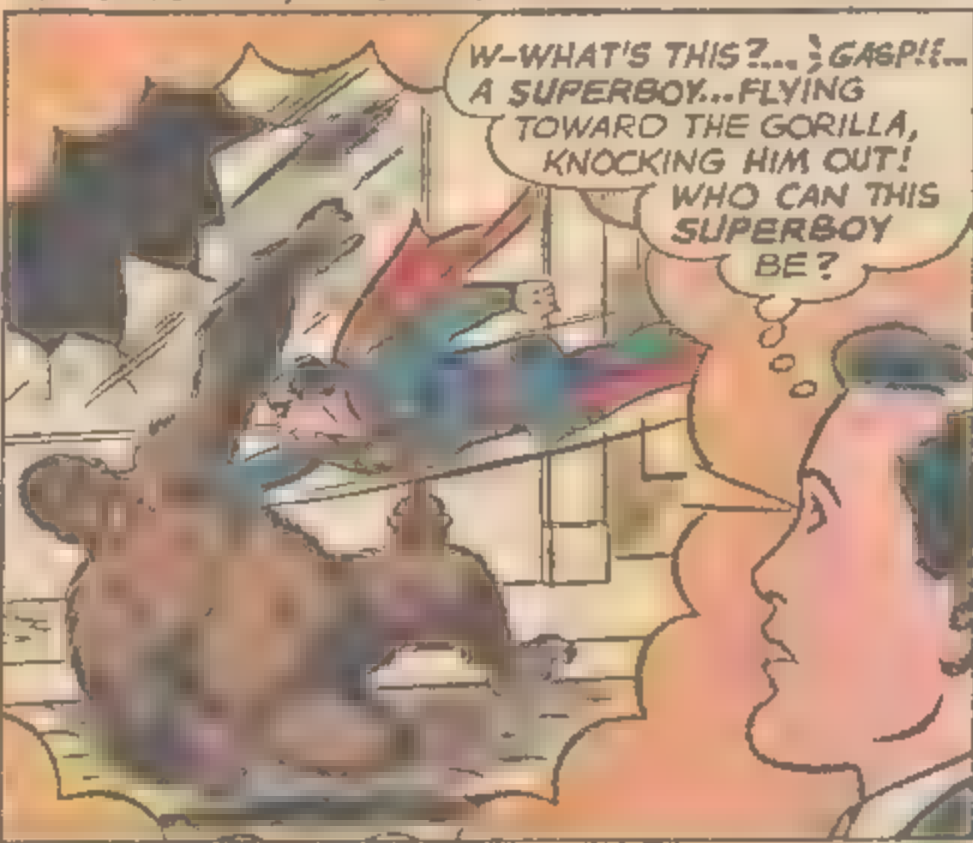
HOLY CATS! THE ROBOT IS IN THE CLOSET OF THE ROOM WHERE MY FOLKS ARE ENTERTAINING! THEY DON'T DARE RELEASE IT!



OH-OH! OUR NEW POPULARITY IS BACKFIRING AGAIN! BACK IN SMALLVILLE PEOPLE RARELY VISITED US AT NIGHT AND WE ALWAYS HAD PRIVACY! IF THIS WERE SMALLVILLE, I WOULDN'T BE STANDING HERE HELPLESSLY WATCHING THAT GORILLA WITH MY X-RAY VISION! I'D BE KNOCKING IT COLD RIGHT NOW!



BUT SUDDENLY, AS CLARK WATCHES FROM AFAR...



W-WHAT'S THIS?... GASP!... A SUPERBOY... FLYING TOWARD THE GORILLA, KNOCKING HIM OUT! WHO CAN THIS SUPERBOY BE?

BUT LATER, AT THE DENTON HOME...

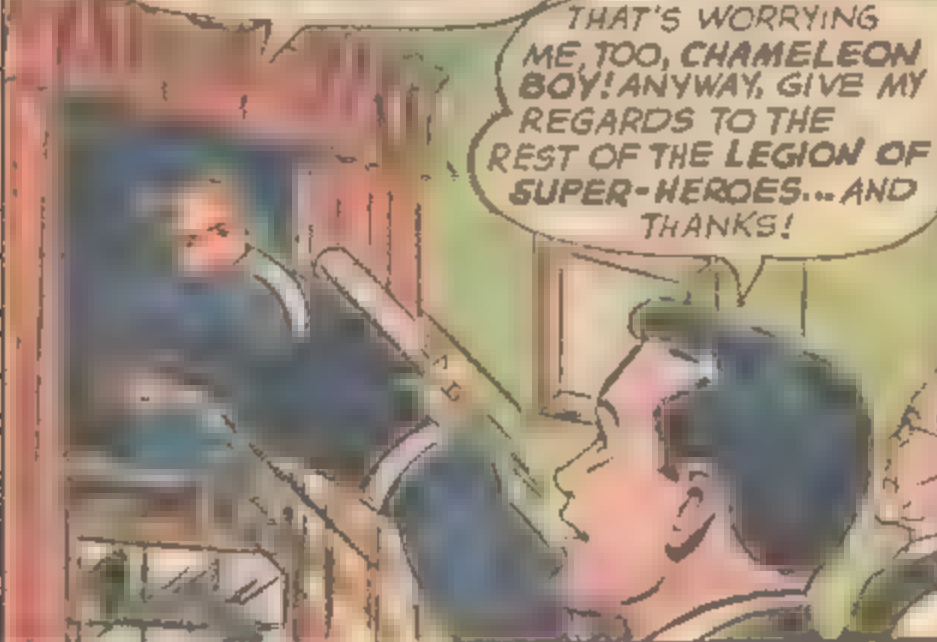
BUT IF THAT SUPERBOY WASN'T YOU OR THE ROBOT, WHO WAS IT? AT FIRST I WAS PUZZLED TOO, DAD! THEN IT HIT ME! IT'S SOMEONE WHO FLIES BY MEANS OF AN ANTI-GRAVITY BELT AND WHO CAN CHANGE INTO ANY SHAPE OR FORM! IN FACT, HE'S JUST COME INTO THIS VERY ROOM! ISN'T THAT YOU, CHAMELEON BOY, CHANGING BACK INTO YOUR NATURAL SELF?



YES, CLARK! I'D GONE INTO THE PAST ON A MISSION AND THOUGHT I'D VISIT YOU ON MY WAY BACK TO THE FUTURE! WHEN I SAW THE SPOT YOU WERE IN, UNABLE TO SWITCH TO SUPERBOY, I CHANGED MYSELF INTO AN IMITATION OF YOU AND HANDLED THAT GORILLA...

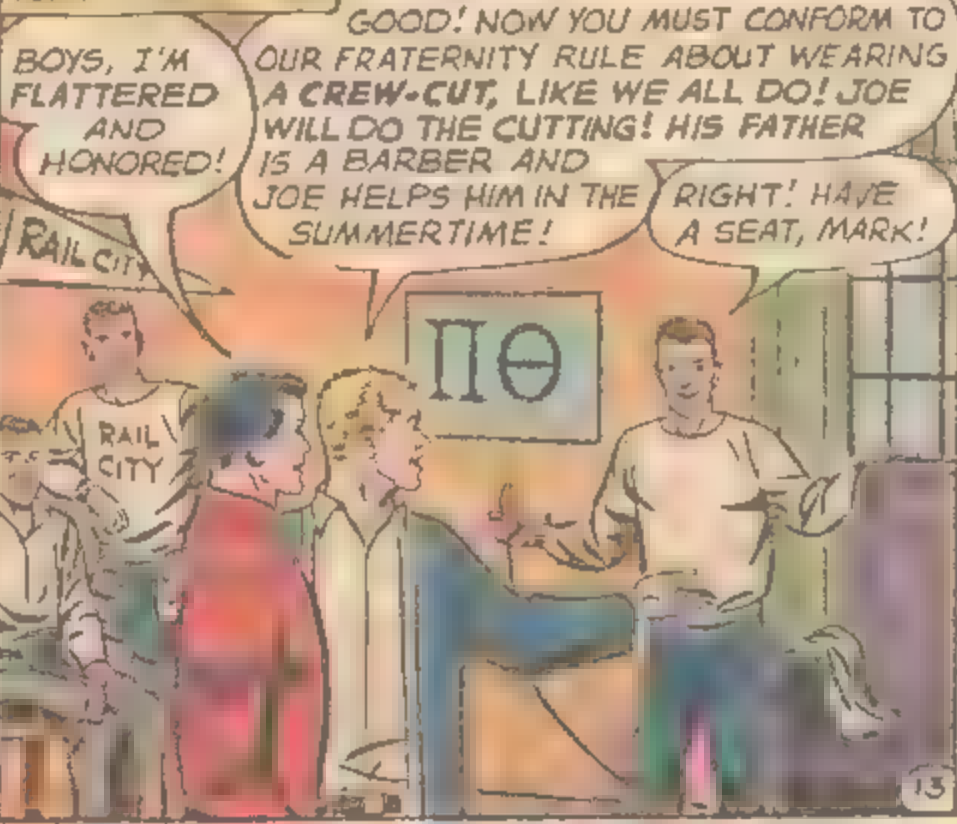


EVERYBODY THOUGHT I HAD PUNCHED THE APE... BUT ACTUALLY I HAD USED A GAS PELLET TO KNOCK HIM OUT! BUT NOW THAT I'M RETURNING TO THE FUTURE, HOW WILL YOU MANAGE YOUR NEXT EMERGENCY, IF YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHEN YOU HAVE TO SWITCH TO SUPERBOY?



THAT'S WORRYING ME, TOO, CHAMELEON BOY! ANYWAY, GIVE MY REGARDS TO THE REST OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES... AND THANKS!

DAYS LATER, AS CLARK IS ACCEPTED INTO THE SCHOOL'S TOP FRATERNITY...



GOOD! NOW YOU MUST CONFORM TO OUR FRATERNITY RULE ABOUT WEARING A CREW-CUT, LIKE WE ALL DO! JOE WILL DO THE CUTTING! HIS FATHER IS A BARBER AND JOE HELPS HIM IN THE SUMMERTIME!

RIGHT! HAVE A SEAT, MARK!



ADVENTURE COMICS



SHORTLY...

HEY! MARK'S GOT REAL TOUGH HAIR! I'LL HAVE TO USE A STEEL BRUSH ON IT BEFORE I START CLIPPING!

WOW! NOW I'M REALLY ON THE HOT SEAT! MY INDESTRUCTIBLE HAIR CAN'T BE CUT! THE CLIPPERS WILL BE RUINED THE MOMENT THEY TOUCH MY HEAD! I MUST THINK OF SOMETHING FAST!

RAIL CITY



PRESENTLY, AFTER JOE FINISHES THE BRUSHING...

MY CLIPPERS... T-THEY'RE SHATTERED!

POOR JOE! IF HE KNEW HE WAS TRYING TO CUT SUPERBOY'S INDESTRUCTIBLE HAIR, HE'D KNOW WHY HIS CLIPPERS FELL APART! A SECOND AGO I USED MY HEAT VISION ON HIS STEEL BRUSH!



"AFTER MELTING A FEW STEEL STRANDS LOOSE FROM THE BRUSH, I BLEW THEM ONTO THE FLOOR. A STUNT WHICH WILL GIVE ME MY ALIBI FOR THE CLIPPERS INCIDENT!"



NO WONDER YOUR CLIPPERS WERE RUINED, JOE! LOOK AT THOSE STEEL BRISTLES ON THE FLOOR! A FEW MUST'VE FALLEN OUT WHILE YOU BRUSHED MY HAIR AND PENETRATED THE CLIPPERS, WRECKING THE MOTOR!

WELL, THAT WAS MY ONLY PAIR, MARK! I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO GO TO MY DAD'S SHOP TOMORROW!



BUT THE NEXT DAY, THE 'DENTON S' ARE FAR FROM RAIL CITY.

WELL, FOLKS. IT WAS NICE WHILE IT LASTED! GIRLS LIKED ME. I BECAME A TOP STUDENT AND ATHLETE AND YOU WERE PROUD OF ME! BUT MY NEW IDENTITY HINDERED ME!

RIGHT, SON! YOU COULDN'T OPERATE AS SUPERBOY AND WE COULDN'T HELP YOU, EITHER! BECAUSE OF OUR POPULARITY, WE WERE ALWAYS MOBBED! AND YOU WERE ALWAYS IN A SPOT WHERE YOU COULDN'T SWITCH TO SUPERBOY!



A WEEK LATER, IN SMALLVILLE...

OUT OF THE WAY, FOUR-EYES! LET A HE-MAN THROUGH!

CLARK! HOW CAN YOU LET HIM BULLY YOU?

VERY EASILY! IT'S ONLY AS "TIMID" CLARK KENT THAT I CAN PRESERVE MY SECRET IDENTITY AND PERFORM AS SUPERBOY.. AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES THE KENT FAMILY REALLY HAPPY!





Dear Editor: Superb is the word for the latest ADVENTURE COMICS! Everything was perfect. The cover, featuring the Legion of Super-Heroes, was another exceptional production by Curtis Swan. "Superboy Meets Steelboy" was an excellently developed plot. And the Legion story, "Sun-Boy's Lost Power," was the best of the series thus far—not an easy task, since they've all been good.

Paul Gambaccini, Westport, Conn.
(It isn't every day we can get an A-OK from hard-boiled critic Paul Gambaccini! So we'll quit while we're ahead!—Ed.)

* * *
Dear Editor: When will the "Legion of Super-Heroes" add a new member to their roles?

Ron Wenkart, Sepulveda, Calif.
(See the next issue of ADVENTURE COMICS, when we introduce Stone Boy, the Chlorophyll Kid, and others. They become members of the "Legion of SUBSTITUTE Heroes!"—Ed.)

* * *
Dear Editor: Recently, in your letter department, in answer to a question asked by Eleanor Harris, you state that Lana Lang and Superboy were too young to obtain a marriage license in any city of the United States. However, in Las Vegas, couples may obtain a marriage license at the age of 14. So couldn't Superboy marry Lana there?

Lee A. Litch, Sunnyvale, Calif.
(No. Superboy would have to show the officials his birth certificate, which he lacks, because it was destroyed when his native planet, Krypton, blew up.—Ed.)

* * *
Dear Editor: Have you ever printed a map of Smallville in any of your magazines? If not, how about it?

Doug Seelye, Napa, Calif.
(A detailed map of Smallville, home of Superboy, as well as an authentic map of Metropolis, where Superboy moved to when he grew up to become Superman, will be presented sometime during this year in SUPERBOY and SUPERMAN magazines.—Ed.)

* * *
Dear Editor: In your recent story, "Lex Luthor and Clark Kent, Cell-Mates," the warden of the reformatory has Clark Kent go through the regular prison routine when he becomes an inmate there. Well, when they checked Clark, wouldn't they find that he didn't need glasses? And if his eyes were perfect, how would Clark explain why he wore glasses?

Susan Kaghan, Nyack, N. Y.

(This is scarcely a problem. Optometrists prescribe glasses when the individual being examined fails to read the eye-chart properly. So obviously, to protect his secret identity, Clark always goofs when he is asked to scan the chart, despite the fact that he possesses super-vision.—Ed.)

* * *
Dear Editor: Will you please tell me how the members of the Legion of Super-Heroes are able to fly? As far as I know, only a few of them can really fly like Superboy.

Tilson Van Broeck, Miami, Fla.
(They all own friction-proof anti-gravity belts, supplied them in a previous story.—Ed.)

* * *
Dear Editor: Of all the types of SUPERBOY stories you give us, the ones my girl friends and I like best are those yarns in which Lana Lang tries desperately to prove that Clark Kent is Superboy. I especially like the clever ways in which Lana tries to catch Clark red-handed, and the even cleverer ways in which Clark is able to thwart her. How about more of this type?

Marie Rogers, Lubec, Maine.
(Stand by . . . another one of these duels-of-wits between Lana and Clark is scheduled for the next issue of ADVENTURE! But even though Clark succeeds in foiling Lana in this yarn, we guarantee she'll never stop being suspicious that Clark and Superboy are one and the same.—Ed.)

* * *
Dear Editor: "The Legion of Super-Heroes" has turned out to be a grand series. However, in the avalanche of congratulations you have received, almost everyone has forgotten BIZARRO, the wacky, pathetic, super-idiot who used to amuse us month after month with his zany antics. May I suggest, therefore, that you revive him by having him apply for membership in the Legion?

Wayne Stodge, Newark, N. J.
(We're with you. But first we'll have to dream up a kookie initiation test for Bizarro to pass.—Ed.)

* * *
Dear Editor: Will you ever tell us how Ma and Pa Kent died?

Abraham Lobsenz, Waco, Tex.
(The tragic story of how the Kents passed away—and of how Superboy thought he was responsible for their death—is now being prepared. As soon as we schedule it for publication, we'll announce it in our Superman "family" of magazines.—Ed.)



JAMES OF THE LEGION of SUPER-HEROES

EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES HAS AT LEAST ONE ASTOUNDING SUPER-POWER! ONE DAY, HOWEVER, ALONG COMES A YOUTH WHO IS NOT ONLY AS MIGHTY AS SUPERBOY AND MON-EL BUT IS ABLE TO BOTH KRYPTONITE AND LEAD TO DEFEAT YOU TO SOLVE THE **SECRET OF THE MYSTERY LEGIONNAIRE!**

MARVEL LAD IS SO COURAGEOUS, COSMIC BOY! HE'S NOT AFRAID TO BATTLE ALL THE MONSTERS OF THAT ALIEN PLANET... ALONE!

HE'S BRAVE, ALL RIGHT! YET... I CAN'T GET OVER THE FEELING THERE'S SOMETHING IN HIS PAST HE WANTS TO HIDE!!

SPACE MONITOR





ADVENTURE COMICS



ONE DAY, IN THE 30TH CENTURY, AS THE COMRADES OF THE SLAIN LEGIONNAIRE, LIGHTNING LAD, VISIT HIS TOMB TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS...

WHAT A SHAME HE DIED! HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO SAVE ME... I SOBB!

PLEASE DON'T CRY, SATURN GIRL! INSTEAD, BE PROUD OF HIM FOR HIS GALLANTRY--AS WE ARE!



LATER, AS THEY RETURN TO THE SUPER-HERO CLUBHOUSE...

THERE'LL NEVER BE ANOTHER LEGIONNAIRE LIKE LIGHTNING LAD!



IN MEMORY OF LIGHTNING LAD THE FIRST LEGIONNAIRE TO PERISH IN BATTLE

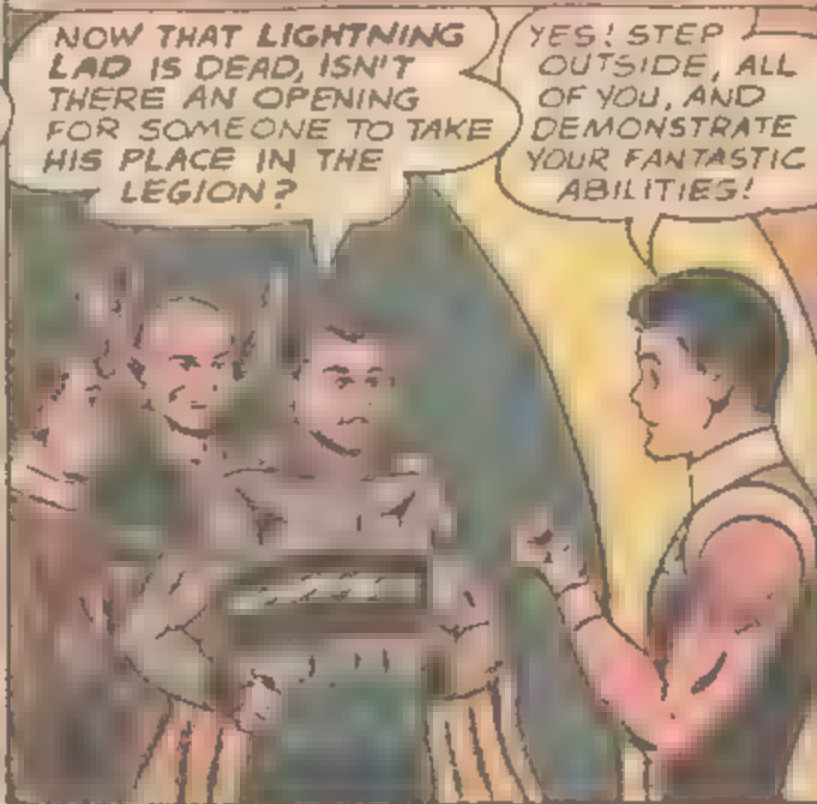
MON-EL HE MUST REMAIN IN PHANTOM ZONE UNTIL PERMANENT SUPER-HERO STATUS IS ESTABLISHED

SUN BOY SUPER-GALLIANCE

SOON, AS A FEW YOUTHS WHO CLAIM TO POSSESS SUPER-POWERS ARRIVE

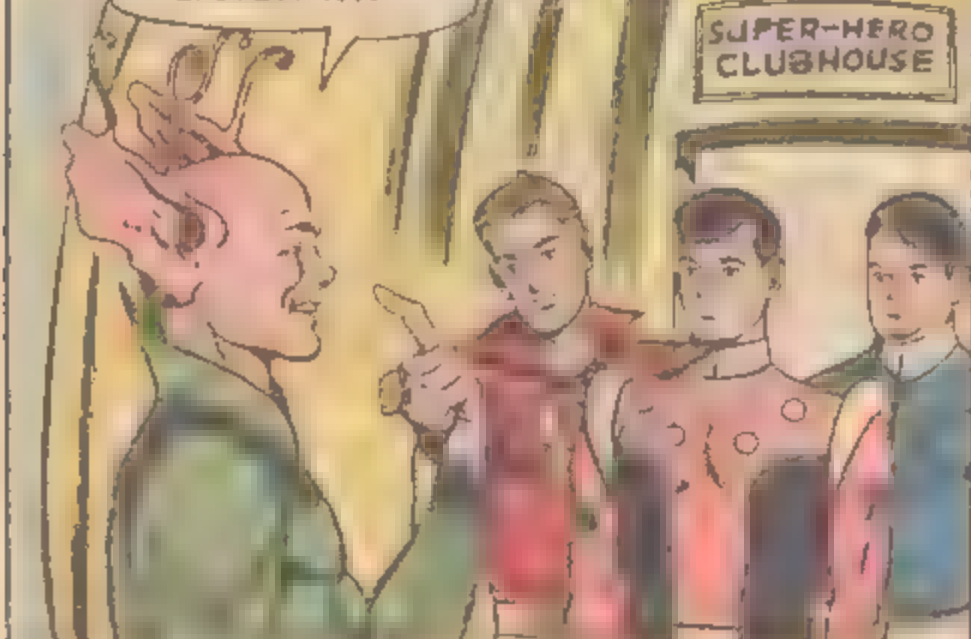
NOW THAT LIGHTNING LAD IS DEAD, ISN'T THERE AN OPENING FOR SOMEONE TO TAKE HIS PLACE IN THE LEGION?

YES! STEP OUTSIDE, ALL OF YOU, AND DEMONSTRATE YOUR FANTASTIC ABILITIES!



APPL CANT NUMBER ONE IS AN ALIEN YOUTH FROM THE PLANET GRXYOR...

I, ANTENNAE BOY, CAN PICK UP RADIO BROADCASTS FROM STATIONS ANYWHERE ON EARTH, WHETHER THEY ORIGINATE IN THE PRESENT, PAST, OR FUTURE! LISTEN...!!



SUPER-HERO CLUBHOUSE

NEWS FLASH! JAPAN SURRENDERED TODAY, WITHDRAWING FROM WORLD WAR II!

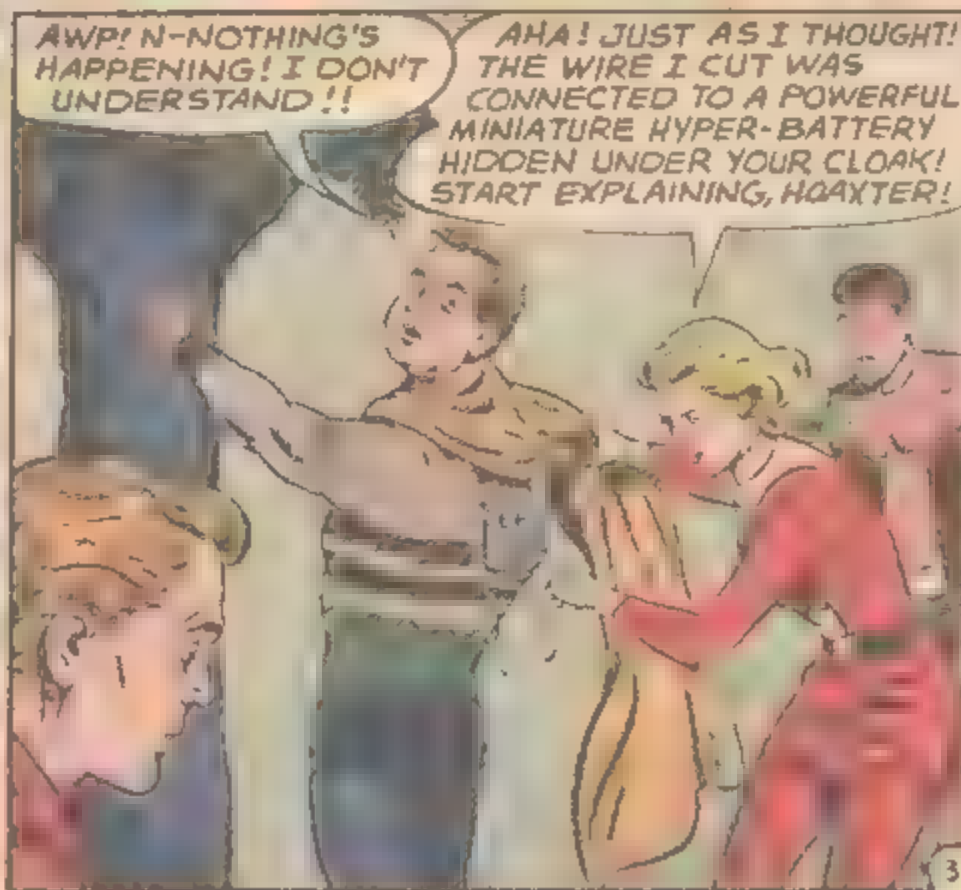
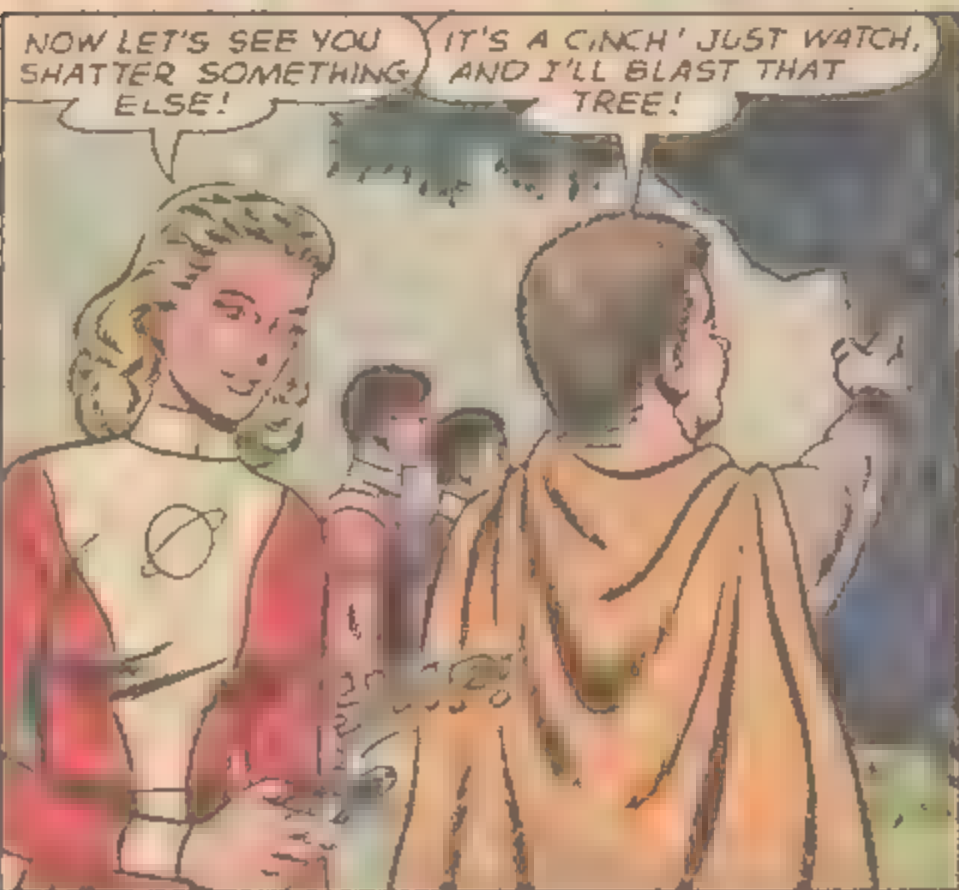
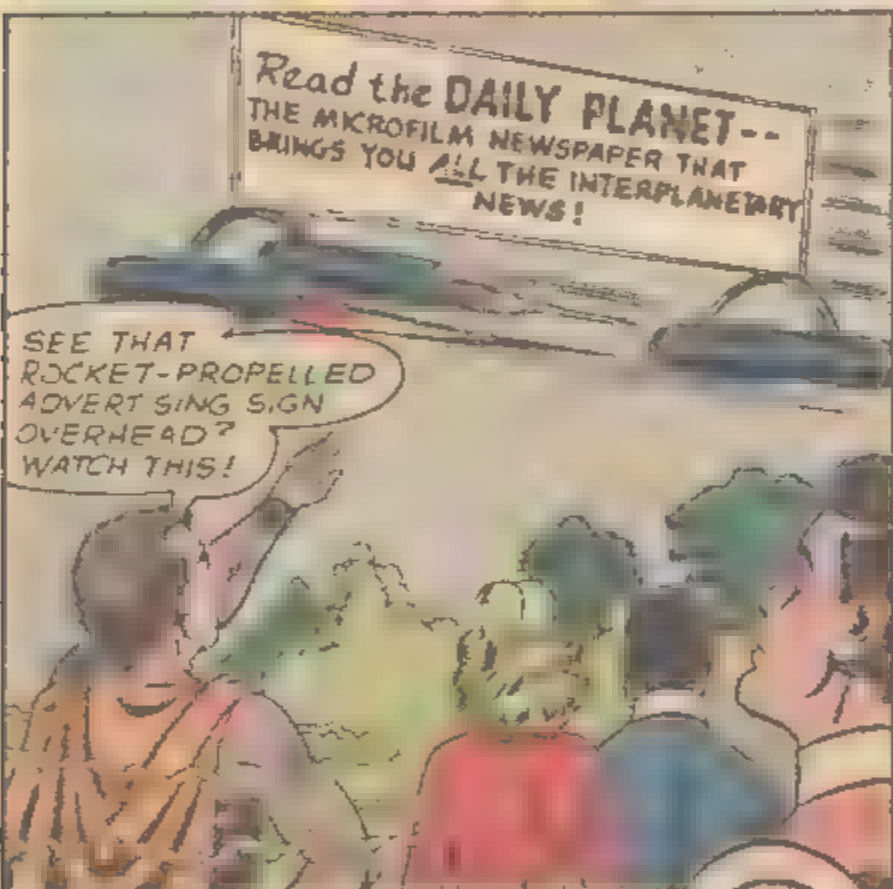
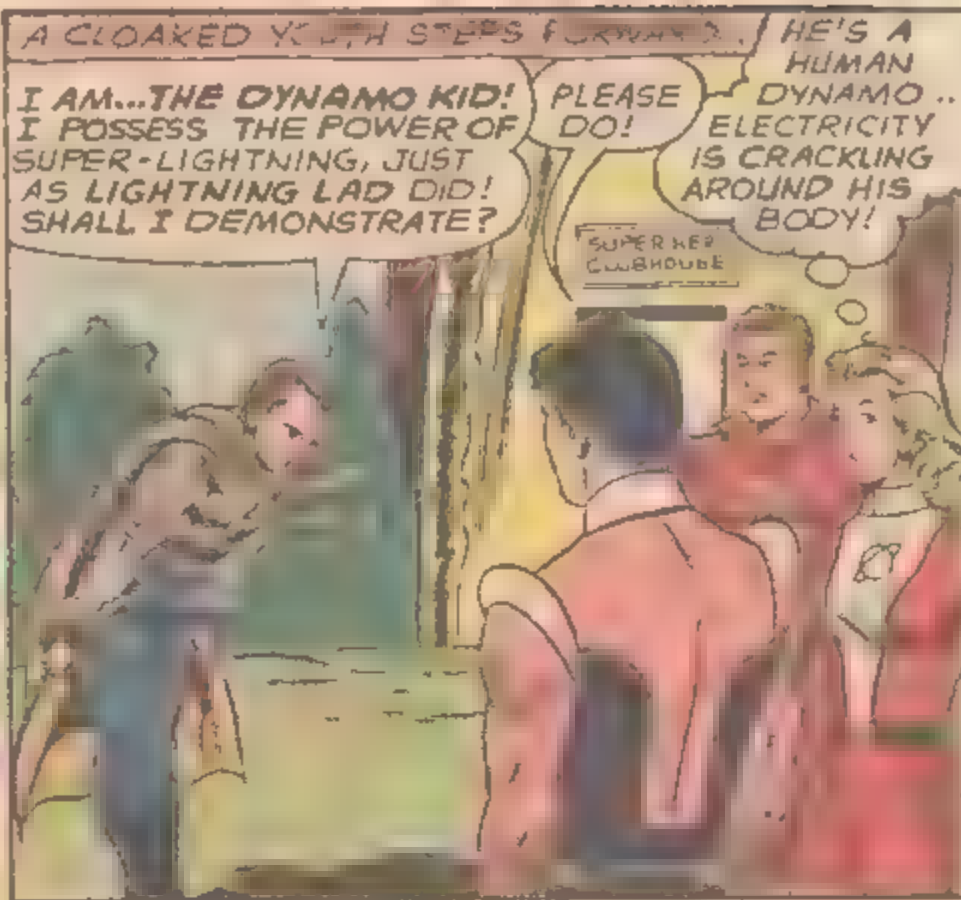
EVERYBODY'S DOIN' THE TWIST! VACATION ON VENUS - ONLY \$100,000

TURN OFF THAT NOISE! IT'S ... EAR-SPLITTING!!

HE'S THREE-EYED SAM FROM THE PLANET WHAM!

SQUEE-EEARRR!!







UH--I'M A REPORTER! I WANTED TO WRITE A SCOOP ENTITLED, "I WAS A SUPER-LEGIONNAIRE FOR ONE WEEK"! MY DEVICE'S BEAM EXPLODED A BOMB HIDDEN IN THE SIGN! AND THERE WAS A SIMILAR BOMB HIDDEN IN THAT TREE!

WELL, YOUR BOMBS LAID AN EGG! GET LOST!

NEXT, ANOTHER CANDIDATE... OH-OH! I MUST LEAVE AT ONCE IN MY SPACE-MOBILE! I'VE RECEIVED A TELEPATHIC DISTRESS CALL FROM ANOTHER WORLD!

WHO ARE YOU, AND WHAT'S YOUR SUPER-POWER?

LEGIONNAIRE LEMON IS THE NAME!

BECAUSE I'M CERTAIN TO BECOME A MEMBER OF YOUR CLUB! SUPER-POWERS? I'VE GOT PLENTY OF 'EM! LOOK AT THIS, FOR EXAMPLE!

WHY ARE YOU CALLING YOURSELF A LEGIONNAIRE, WHEN YOU AREN'T?

GREAT CANALS OF MARS! HE'S FLYING UNDER HIS OWN POWER .WITHOUT AN ANTI-GRAVITY BELT!

AFTER THE COCKY YOUTH ALIGHTS... MAKE YOURSELF INTO A GIANT, COLOSSAL BOY, AND I'LL EXHIBIT ANOTHER SUPER-POWER!

OKAY! WHAT'S HE PLANNING?

MOMENTS LATER...

LEAPING ROCKETS' LEGIONNAIRE LEMON IS SUPPORTING COLOSSAL BOY ON HIS PALM! WHAT FANTASTIC SUPER-STRENGTH! HMM... NOBODY BUT SUPERBOY COULD BE THAT POWERFUL! I'LL HAVE TO TEST HIM!

NOW YOU KNOW WHY I AM ALSO NAMED MARVEL LAD!

QUICKLY, COSMIC BOY TESTS THE AMAZING YOUTH'S FCMA...

THIS METAL-DETECTOR REVEALS YOU AREN'T A ROBOT! HOW DO WE KNOW YOU'RE NOT SUPERBOY IN DISGUISE AND YOU'VE COME OUT OF THE FAST TO PLAY A PRANK ON US?

I'LL DISPROVE THAT IMMEDIATELY! I KNOW YOU HAVE A SAMPLE OF KRYPTONITE INSIDE YOUR CLUB-HOUSE, I'LL SHOW YOU IT CAN'T HURT ME!

SHORTLY, INSIDE THE CLUBHOUSE LAB...

GREAT GALAXIES! HE TOLD THE TRUTH! THE KRYPTONITE RAYS DON'T AFFECT HIM!

NOTE, TOO, THAT THE LEAD BOX DOESN'T HURT ME, EITHER!

CUTION
THIS LEAD BOX
CONTAINS GREEN
KRYPTONITE USED IN
KRYPTONITE-ANTI-
DOE'S EXPERIMENTS

ASTOUNDING! YOU'VE THE POWERS OF BOTH SUPERBOY AND HIS FRIEND MON-EL...YET YOU'RE UNHARMED BY KRYPTONITE RADIATIONS WHICH CAN DESTROY SUPERBOY, OR BY LEAD RADIATIONS WHICH CAN KILL MON-EL! THAT MEANS YOU'RE GREATER THAN BOTH OF THEM!

CORRECT, BRAINIAC 5!

BRAINIAC 5 SHOULD KNOW! HE'S BEEN WORKING ON A SERUM WHICH MAY CURE MON-EL PERMANENTLY OF LEAD POISONING. AT PRESENT, LEGIONNAIRE MON-EL IS IMPRISONED INSIDE THE PHANTOM ZONE DIMENSION TOGETHER WITH KRYPTONIAN OUTLAWS WHO WERE PLACED THERE AS PUNISHMENT FOR THEIR CRIMES!

HM-MM...I MUST ADMIT YOUR POWERS ARE IMPRESSIVE, MARVEL LAD! IF YOU PASS THREE INITIATION TESTS, YOU'LL BECOME A MEMBER! FIRST...GET BRAINIAC 5 SOME MORE OF THAT RARE FLUVIUM HE NEEDS FOR HIS LEAD-POISONING ANTIDOTE EXPERIMENTS!

I'LL BE BACK IN A FLASH WITH THE FLUVIUM!

OFF STREAKS MARVEL LAD AT DAZZLING SPEED, AND AFTER A FEW MINUTES LATER...

HERE YOU ARE! I FOUND IT IN A DISTANT GALAXY!

WHAT SUPER-SPEED! HE MUST BE WEARING A COSTUME THAT CAN'T BE DESTROYED BY FRICTION WITH THE AIR!

SOON, INSIDE THE CLUBHOUSE...

YOUR SECOND INITIATION TEST IS A TOUGH ONE! -SEE THAT WEIRD CREATURE ABOUT TO RACE INTO OUR SUN? HE'S A SUN-EATER WHO ROAMS THROUGH SPACE, FEEDING ON SOLAR BODIES, ABSORBING THEIR HEAT AND ENERGY!

I'VE A HUNCH WHAT YOU'RE LEADING UP TO!

SPACE MONSTER



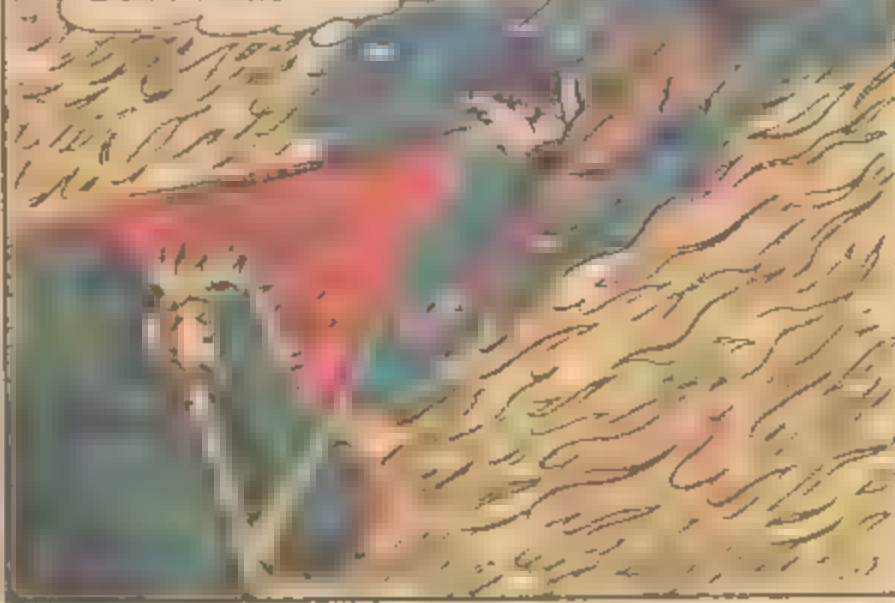
WE LEGIONNAIRES CAN'T PURSUE THE SUN-EATER INTO OUR SUN BECAUSE OF THAT SPHERE'S TREMENDOUS HEAT! UNLIKE US, HOWEVER, YOU ARE INVULNERABLE! WE ASK YOU TO SAVE OUR SUN, IF YOU CAN!

WILL DO!—WATCH!



UP INTO OUTER SPACE FLASHES "LEGIONNAIRE LEMON" AT INCREDIBLE PACE, AND SOON AFTERWARD...

MY X-RAY VISION REVEALS THE CREATURE'S BEGINNING TO CONSUME SOME OF THE SUN'S INTERIOR! WHAT A COSMIC APPETITE!!—I'LL JOIN HIM!



MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE SUPER-HERO CLUBHOUSE, ON EARTH...

OUR SPACE MONITOR REVEALS MARVEL LAD IS INSIDE THE SUN... OH-CH! THE SUN-EATER'S GRABBED HOLD OF HIM!

THE BOY HASN'T A CHANCE!



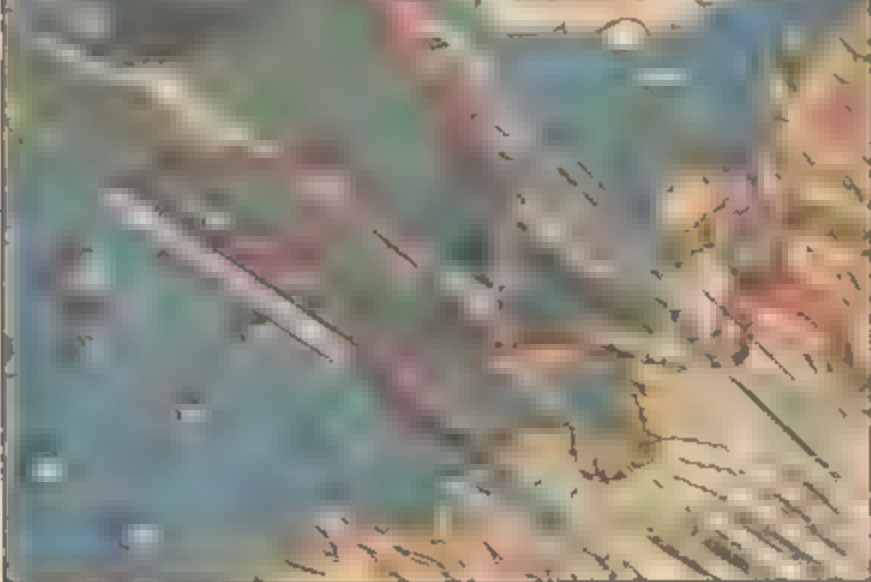
DEEP IN THE HEART OF COLD SPACE...

NOW YOU'VE GOT ME SIZZLING MAD! JUST FOR THAT, I'LL TURN UP THE POWER OF MY HEAT VISION TO THE NINTH DEGREE, AND GIVE YOU A SUPER-HOT FOOT!



INSTANTS AFTERWARD...

HA, HA, HA! LOOK AT HIM GO! SINCE I MADE THINGS TOO HOT FOR HIS TASTE, HE'S SPEEDING OFF IN SEARCH OF A COOLER SUN! I DOUBT IF HE'LL EVER PESTER THIS SOLAR SYSTEM AGAIN!



AS THE COCKY YOUTH RETURNS TO EARTH...

HOW'D I DO? GREAT, EH?

EXCELLENT! MODESTY ISN'T ONE OF YOUR VIRTUES, THOUGH!—FOR THE SECOND TEST, FLY TO THIS PLANET OF WEIRD MONSTERS AND MAKE IT SAFE FOR SPACE PILOTS TO LAND THERE WHEN NECESSARY!



THE PLANET BROGG

SPACE MONITOR

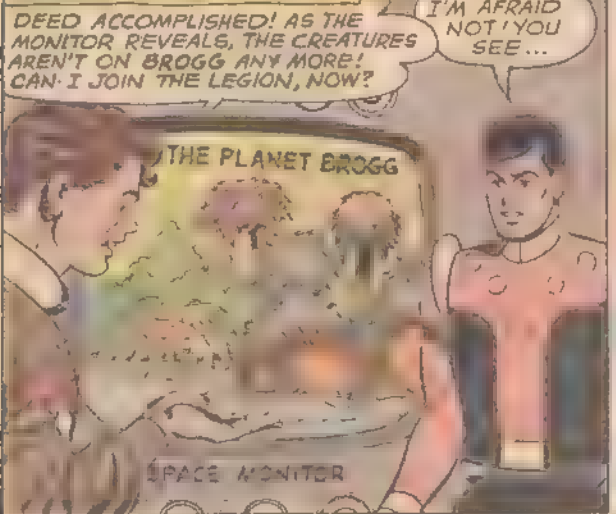
SHORTLY, AS MARVEL LAD NEARS HIS DESTINATION, IN A DISTANT GALAXY...



THEN, AS HE ALIGHTS ON BROGG...

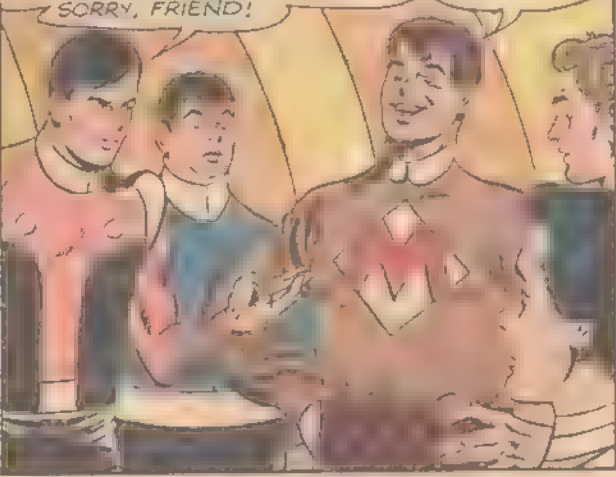


A LITTLE LATER, AS THE INVULNERABLE BOY RETURNS TO OUR PLANET...

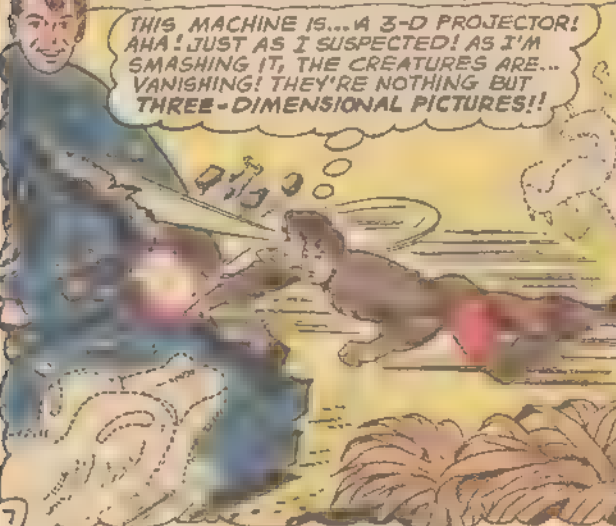


...IT'S AGAINST OUR CODE TO DESTROY LIFE...EVEN MONSTERS! SO...YOU'RE DISQUALIFIED FOR HAVING KILLED THOSE CREATURES! SORRY, FRIEND!

HA, HA, HA! WHO DID ANY KILLING? NOT ME, PAL!



"WHEN I LANDED ON BROGG, MY X-RAY VISION REVEALED SOMETHING TO ME..."



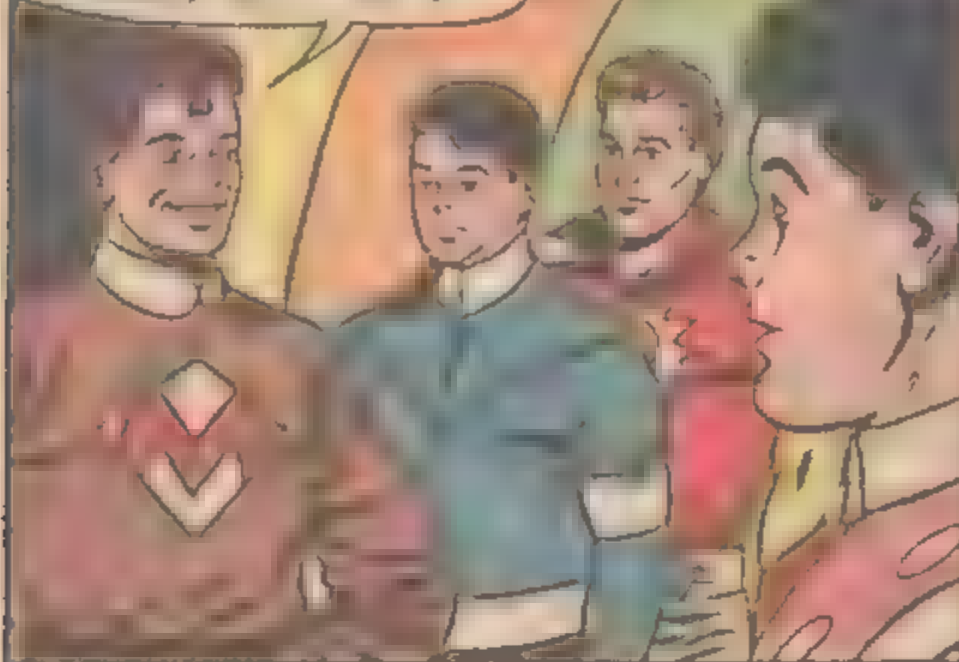
MY X-RAY VISION ALSO DISCOVERED TREASURES FROM OTHER WORLDS HIDDEN BENEATH THE PROJECTOR!...MY THEORY IS THAT SPACE PIRATES HID THEIR LOOT HERE, TOGETHER WITH THE PROJECTOR THAT FRIGHTENED OFF SPACE PILOTS WITH 3-D PICTORIAL ILLUSIONS OF MONSTERS! THAT'S HOW THEY PROTECTED THEIR BOOTY!



AS MARVEL LAD FINISHES SPEAKING...

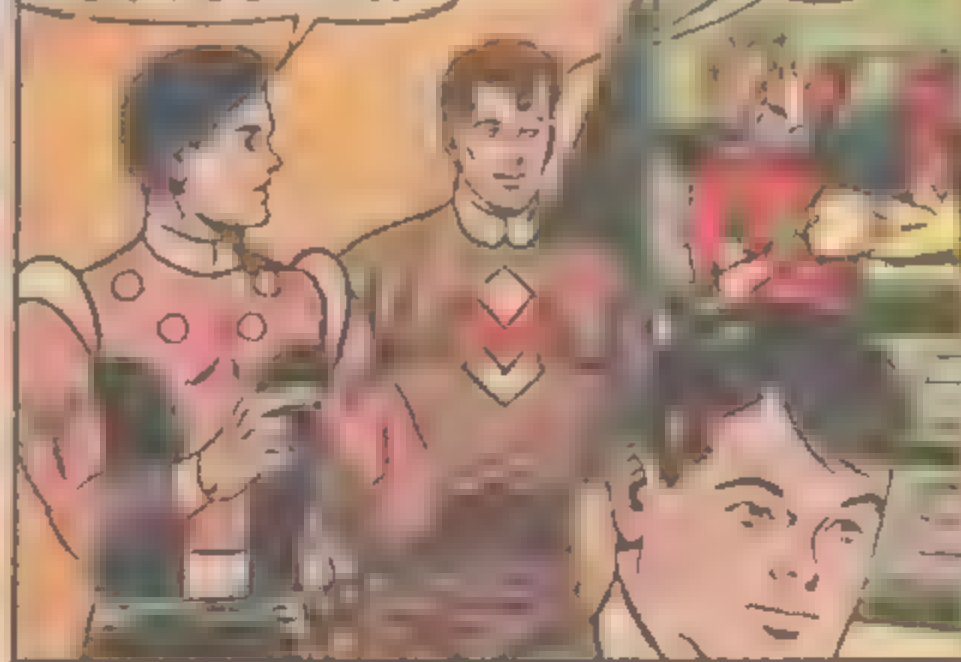
WELL; ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO NOW IS NOTIFY THE SPACE POLICE ABOUT THE PRATES' SCHEME, SO THE POLICE CAN RECOVER THE LOOT!— WELL, AM I "IN"?

ALMOST!!



WHILE YOU'VE BEEN PERFORMING YOUR INITIATION FEATS, WE'VE BEEN TESTING OTHER APPLICANTS, TOO! IF YOU CAN CREATE A NEW ELEMENT WHICH DOESN'T ALREADY EXIST ON EARTH, YOU'LL WIN OUT OVER THE OTHERS!

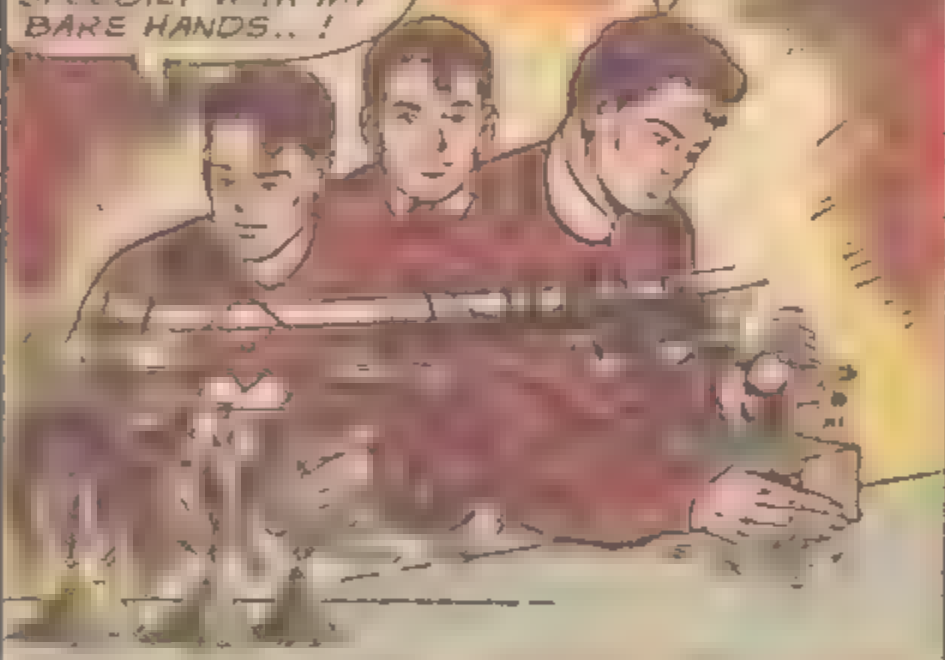
OKAY! FIRST, BRNG ME SOME GOLD .. SILVER .. AND IRON!



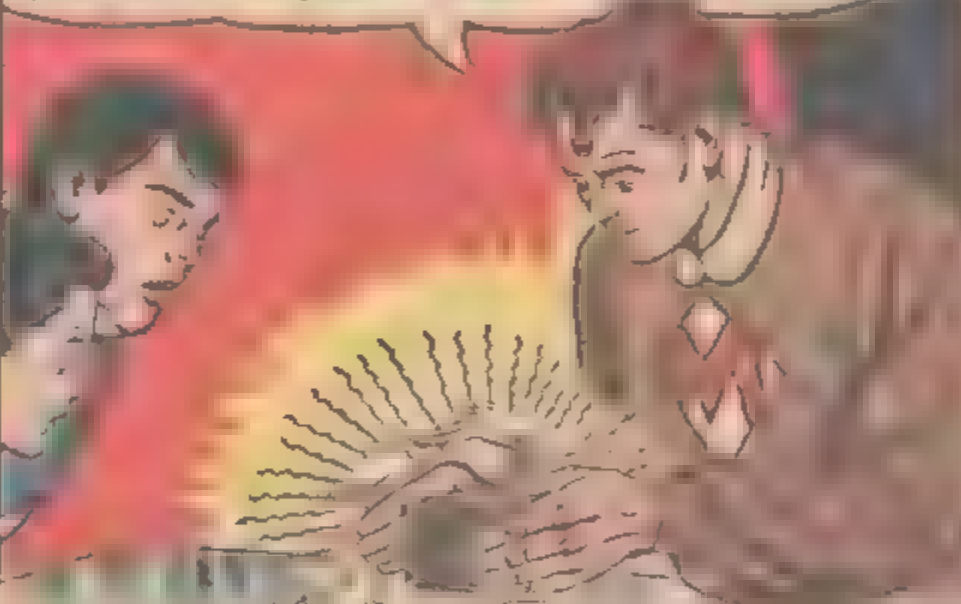
SECONDS AFTERWARD...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ASSISTANCE, CHUMS! FIRST I'LL CRUSH THE METALS SPEEDILY WITH MY BARE HANDS..!

NOW I'M FIRING THE GRANULES TOGETHER INTO A BLOCK! WATCH WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!!



SWIFTLY, WHILE CONCENTRATING MIGHTILY, I SUPER-RUB THE BLOCK...THUS REARRANGING ITS MOLECULES SO THAT ELEMENT NO.152 IS CREATED, AN ELEMENT WHICH NEVER BEFORE EXISTED ON THIS PLANET! YOU SEE, THE ATOMIC WEIGHT OF GOLD IS 79 .. SILVER IS 47... AND IRON IS 26! ADD THEM UP TOGETHER—AND THE TOTAL IS 152—A NEW ELEMENT...



LOOK! ELEMENT NO.152 IS AN ANTI-GRAVITY METAL WHICH... FLOATS! IS IT A BIRD? IS IT A HELIUM-FILLED BALLOON? NO, IT'S ELEMENT NO.152!!

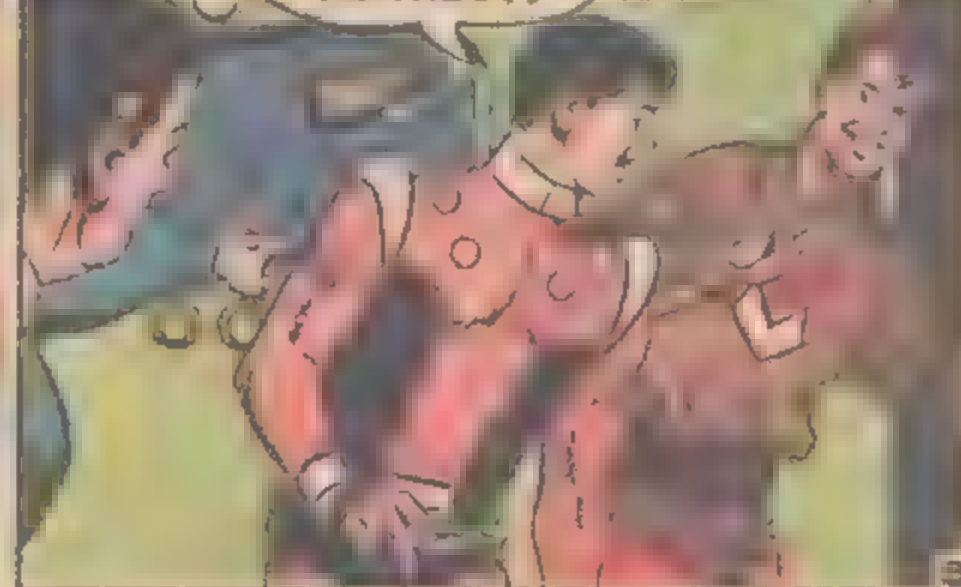
GASP!!—IT'S... SOARING OUT THROUGH THE WINDOW!!



ULP! IT'S FLYING UP INTO OUTER SPACE!

SUPERB! WELL, YOU'VE PASSED ALL OUR INITIATION TESTS, MARVEL LAD! WE'LL INDUCT YOU INTO OUR CLUB, TOMORROW!... BUT...ER...HOW DID YOU GET YOUR MARVELOUS ABILITIES??

I'LL TELL YOU... TOMORROW! 'BYE, NOW!!



EARLY THE FOLLOWING DAY, AS THE SUPER-HEROES AWAIT MARVEL LAD'S ARRIVAL...

HE'S... LATE! WILL HE SHOW UP AT ALL?

MAYBE NOT! PERHAPS HE'S GOT SOME DARK SECRET IN HIS PAST! COULD THAT BE WHY HE DIDN'T WANT TO TELL US ABOUT HIS ORIGIN?

SUPER-HERO CLUBHOUSE



AND AS TIME DRAGS ON...

I GUESS WE'D BETTER FORGET ABOUT HIM AND CONTINUE WITH OUR REGULAR BUSINESS!

WAIT! HERE HE IS NOW!

SORRY I'M LATE! I VISITED THE PLANET DAXAM LONGER THAN I INTENDED!



DAXAM!... BY THE GREAT RED SPOT OF JUPITER, THAT'S THE HOME PLANET OF SOMEONE WHO ALREADY BELONGS TO THE LEGION! MARVEL LAD, IS IT POSSIBLE YOU'RE ... ?

YOU'VE GUESSED IT! OFF WITH MY DISGUISE PLASTIC MASK AND WIG...

IT'S MON-EL!!



I KNEW IT ALL THE TIME, HA, HA! HIS FICTITIOUS NAME, "LEMON," IS MON-EL... SPELLED IN AN ANAGRAM! GET IT?!!

YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? I THOUGHT MON-EL COULD ONLY COME OUT OF THE PHANTOM ZONE FOR VERY SHORT PERIODS, LEST HE BECOME DESPERATELY ILL FROM EXPOSURE TO LEAD!



THAT WAS TRUE... UNTIL YESTERDAY... WHEN BRAINIAC 5 SECRETLY RELEASED ME FROM THE PHANTOM ZONE AND GAVE ME AN ANTIDOTE SERUM HE'D PERFECTED!

YOU'D BETTER EXPLAIN EVERYTHING, MON-EL! WE'RE ALL DYING OF CURIOSITY!

"AFTER BRAINIAC 5 GAVE ME THE SERUM..."

UNTIL WE TEST THIS SERUM, WE'D BETTER KEEP SILENT ABOUT THIS EXPERIMENT! IF YOU SUFFER NO POISONING ILL-EFFECTS FROM EXPOSURE TO LEAD FOR A FULL DAY, WE'LL KNOW THE SERUM'S A SUCCESS! THEN WE'LL TELL THE OTHERS!

GOOD IDEA!



THIS WAY, WE'LL AVOID RAISING FALSE HOPES AMONG THE OTHERS IF THE SERUM FAILS TO CURE YOU PERMANENTLY, LIKE THE OTHERS WE TRIED! THEY'D BE VERY DISAPPOINTED!

I AGREE WITH YOU. BUT WHILE I'M HERE IN THE MATERIAL WORLD, THOUGH, I'LL HAVE SOME FUN! I'LL DON A UNIFORM AND A PLASTIC MASK AND A WIG, AND APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE LEGION!

AS MON-EL FINISHES HIS TALE... THE EXPERIMENTAL 24 HOURS ARE UP... AND I FEEL GREAT! SEE— THIS PIECE OF LEAD DOESN'T HURT ME IN THE LEAST! I CAN REMAIN IN THE MATERIAL WORLD PERMANENTLY!

GREAT!

TERRIFIC! I'LL BET YOU NEVER WANT TO SEE THE PHANTOM ZONE AGAIN!

ON THE CONTRARY, I'D LIKE TO RETURN TO THE PHANTOM ZONE RIGHT NOW, JUST FOR TEN MINUTES! GRANT ME THIS REQUEST...

ALL RIGHT!

AS I PRESS THE BLACK BUTTON OF THIS PHANTOM ZONE RAY-PROJECTOR GUN, HE'S BEGINNING TO VANISH!

SECONDS LATER, AS MON-EL MATERIALIZES WITHIN THE TWILIGHT DIMENSION, AND COMMUNICATES TELEPATHICALLY WITH THE OTHER PHANTOMS IMPRISONED THERE...

BLAST YOU! WE SAW WHAT HAPPENED! WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM US?

I'VE COME BACK SO THAT I CAN HAVE THE LAST LAUGH ON YOU OUTLAWS!

FOR CENTURIES, YOU KRYPTONIAN DESPERADOES HAVE BEEN TORMENTING ME BECAUSE I... THE FRIEND OF SUPERBOY WHOM YOU HATE... HAD TO SHARE YOUR LIVING DEATH IN THIS ZONE!

"HOW WELL I REMEMBER YOUR INSULTING TAUNTS..."

HA, HA! HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE TRAPPED HERE WITH UNSAVORY CHARACTERS LIKE US, EH?

SUFFER! NO ONE WILL EVER FIND A WAY TO MAKE YOU INVULNERABLE TO LEAD!

I'LL BE FREED SOME DAY! I KNOW IT!

YOU MEAN, YOU HOPE... HA, HA, HA!

"AND WHEN SATURN GIRL INVENTED 'SERUM XY-4'..."

HA! IT'S ONLY A TEMPORARY ANTIDOTE FOR POISONING BY LEAD RADIATIONS...!

YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY FROM US PERMANENTLY, HA, HA, HA!



"BEFORE I LEAVE YOU FOREVER, I WANT TO TELL SOME OF YOU, WHO MAY NOT KNOW IT, HOW I BECAME A PHANTOM. IT BEGAN AGES AGO, WHEN I LANDED FROM OUTER SPACE IN SMALLVILLE! SUPERBOY THOUGHT I WAS HIS ENEMY AND SET A TRAP FOR ME..."

THIS CHARACTER IS PRETENDING HE WAS BORN ON KRYPTON AND IS SUFFERING FROM AMNESIA! BUT HE'S A PHONEY! HE'S INVULNERABLE TO KRYPTONITE, BUT LEAD IS POISONOUS TO HIM! I'LL PAINT THESE LEAD BALLS GREEN, THEN HURL THEM TO A DISTANT PLANETOID SO THAT THEY LOOK LIKE KRYPTONITE METEORS!



"THEN LATER, AS WE VISITED THAT PLANETOID TOGETHER..."

WHAT A FAKE! HE'S PRETENDING THESE "GREEN KRYPTONITE" METEORS ARE HARMING HIM!



OKAY, MON-EL! CUT OUT THE DYING ACT! UNDERNEATH THE GREEN-PAINTED SURFACE, THESE "METEORS" ARE NOTHING BUT HARMLESS LEAD BALLS! SEE?

CHOKES! MY AMNESIA IS GONE! NOW I REMEMBER EVERYTHING... I'M A NATIVE OF THE PLANET DAXAM... WHERE LEAD AFFECTS ITS PEOPLE THE WAY KRYPTONITE AFFECTS YOU... EXCEPT THAT ITS EFFECTS NEVER WEAR OFF! I'M... DYING!

"SUPERBOY SAVED MY LIFE BY PROJECTING ME INTO THE PHANTOM ZONE..."

MON-EL, I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TRUST YOU! I'M TRANSPORTING YOU INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION WHERE YOU'LL AT LEAST CONTINUE TO LIVE! YOU'LL BE IMPRISONED THERE WITH THE MOST DANGEROUS VILLAINS FROM THE PLANET KRYPTON. BUT SOME DAY, WHEN A CURE FOR YOU IS FOUND, YOU'LL BE RETURNED TO THE REAL WORLD!



AS MON-EL COMPLETES HIS TELEPATHIC STORY...

MY TEN MINUTES ARE UP! MY FRIENDS ARE ABOUT TO RETURN ME TO THE REAL WORLD! GOODBYE FOREVER, VILLAINS! NOW YOU HAVE PROOF THAT GOOD ALWAYS TRIUMPHS OVER EVIL!



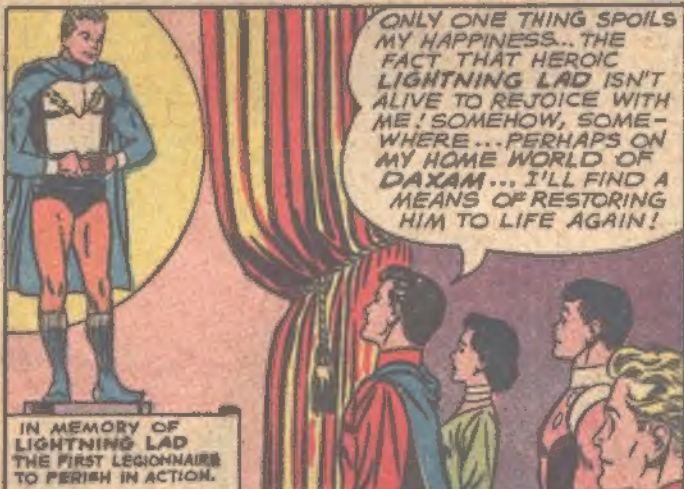
AFTER MON-EL MATERIALIZES IN OUR WORLD...

BAH! I HATE TO SEE THAT GOODY-GOODY EX-PHANTOM RE-UNITED WITH HIS FRIENDS!

SOMEDAY WE'LL ESCAPE, AND DESTROY THEM ALL!



I - I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE YOU'RE BACK IN THE REAL WORLD FOR GOOD! AFTER ALL THE YEARS YOU'VE SUFFERED AS A PHANTOM, I'M SO GLAD YOUR TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE FINALLY HAS A HAPPY ENDING!

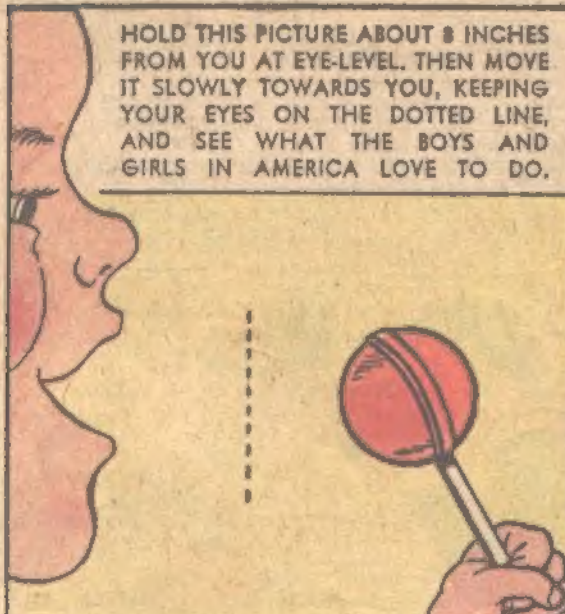


WILL MON-EL MAKE GOOD HIS PLEDGE? WATCH FOR A THRILLING SEQUEL COMING SOON!

The END.

ADVERTISEMENT

HOLD THIS PICTURE ABOUT 8 INCHES FROM YOU AT EYE-LEVEL. THEN MOVE IT SLOWLY TOWARDS YOU, KEEPING YOUR EYES ON THE DOTTED LINE, AND SEE WHAT THE BOYS AND GIRLS IN AMERICA LOVE TO DO.



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